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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal to include the CNMI in the national food stamp program?

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McDonald's Saipan will mark 19 years of serving the island community on March 18. **► PAGE 3**

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CUC: Rota power plant is most fuel efficient. **PAGE 6**

Cruise liner's port call falls through



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Anticipation and excitement over the arrival of *Queen Mary 2* on Saipan turned to anxiety and disappointment Thursday after the luxury ocean liner called off its planned passenger landing at the Smiling Cove Marina due to high winds and rough seas.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Queen Mary 2, touted as the "most magnificent luxury ocean liner every built" and owned by U.K.-based Cunard Lines, is seen leaving Saipan waters from Micro Beach in Garapan yesterday. The ship's captain called off its planned passenger landing at the Smiling Cove Marina due to high winds and rough seas.

Fitial, Manglona spat worsens

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The bickering between Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Senate continues more than a week after senators killed yet again a bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, with the governor blaming Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) for stalling progress.

Fitial issued a statement yesterday

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Fitial



Manglona

Corp. board to decide fate of housing allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After months of review, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board members remain divided on what to do with the housing benefits of hospital staff, according to board chair Jack Torres.

As a result, board members will vote on three options at their next meeting: cut the benefit by 50 percent, suspend the

allowance momentarily, or completely eliminate it.

"The issue of housing is still very contentious. There are varied opinions among board members. Some of them want the benefit to be completely eliminated, while some want to keep

it despite the shaky financial standing of the corporation. So in our next meeting, members will take a vote on the fate of

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» Choices: Reduce, suspend, or eliminate benefit

CNMI TOURISM MASTER PLAN COMPLETED

Ancient latte stones eyed as World Heritage sites

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority endorsed yesterday to acting governor Eloy S. Inos the final draft of the CNMI Tourism Master Plan for 2012-2016, a document described by experts as the most robust tourism study ever conducted on

See ANCIENT on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Management Analysis Inc.'s Lynn A. Knight and Arthur Smith, acting governor Eloy S. Inos, and Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce at yesterday's presentation to the governor of MVA's five-year tourism plan. A public presentation of the tourism plan will be held today.

Local

Kilili asks Fital to exempt WIC from work hour cuts

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) asked Gov. Benigno R. Fital yesterday to exempt from the 16-hour work cuts all federally funded programs, particularly the Women, Infants and Children Program, to comply with federal law that says the WIC Program may not be subject to state budget restrictions.

But Fital, in an interview Saturday, said he does not plan to lift the austerity measures because he wants to promote fairness and equality among all government employees, whether funded locally or by the federal government.

Fital said the exemption for the Nutrition Assistance Program, which runs the federally funded food stamp program, is temporary and only to address the backlog in reviewing eligibility of beneficiaries.

The WIC Program provides support for low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants and children.

Sablan cited Section 361 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, which states that federal funds provided to state agencies for the administration of the WIC program may not be subject to budget restrictions or limitations, including work furloughs.

He also brought to Fital's attention the fiscal year 2012 agreement between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in which former Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez agreed to abide by the Section 361 requirement, and the addendum to the fiscal year 2011 agreement, also signed by Secretary Villagomez, to abide by the same grant restrictions. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

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McDonald's turns 19

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

On March 18, McDonald's Saipan will mark 19 years of serving the island community with delicious food from the world's largest hamburger chain.

Since its inception in 1993, McDonald's Saipan is the only international fast food giant on island that has withstood the test of time.

"Being around for 19 years brings such a great feeling to all of us here at McDonald's Saipan," said general manager Marcia Ayuyu. "Every anniversary we observe is always special because it means that we're still around and that we're successful in what we do."

Ayuyu attributes their success to the service they provide. She said that swiftness and convenience are important factors in a fast food restaurant, but so is quality service.

Mabel Ayuyu, executive assistant to president Joe Ayuyu, the patriarch at the helm of the family-run business, said that McDonald's Saipan goes beyond service. "Our crew members know our regular customers that we've grown to be a big family here," she said.

One thing people love about McDonald's Saipan, Marcia said, is that it is constantly evolving. "We always have something new to offer, bringing in new flavors to satisfy our customers' discerning palates."

Mabel, who just returned after studying business administration at the Chaminade University in Hawaii, agrees. "What's great about McDonald's is that it thinks globally yet acts locally," said Mabel.

Certain items are available exclusively for specific regions. On Saipan, McDonald's offers unique choices such as Spam breakfast platters and taro pie, which delight off-island guests and promote locally grown products.

At the same time, McDonald's Saipan evolves.

As consumers become more health-conscious, so does McDonald's Saipan, which offers a selection of healthy food choices such as salads, oatmeal, and fruit drinks. In fact, McDonald's Saipan takes pride in the fact that their burgers and fries are cooked using 0 trans fat oil.

McDonald's Saipan is also poised to install a new POS system that will make taking orders faster and more efficient. New menu items will also be introduced in the next few weeks and months.

Partnering with PSS

McDonald's Saipan is a known advocate of the youth, giving financial aid to schools and youth-oriented organizations like the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc.

"Mr. Ayuyu really has a big heart for the children and will

support any activity that will help them," said human resource and marketing manager Ana Olaes.

For its 19th anniversary, McDonald's Saipan has partnered with the Public School System to raise funds for public elementary schools. Students have until 2pm tomorrow to support their schools by presenting their school's coupon for any purchase at both McDonald's Saipan locations. The winning school will get the \$8,000 grand prize. The awarding of prizes will be held at the Middle Road branch next week.

'Good crew'

Marcia Ayuyu also credits McDonald's Saipan's accomplishment to its skilled and competent team. "Having a good crew just makes my job easier so I want to take this opportunity to thank them. They are instrumental to our success," she added.

Francis Pacho, a crew member for four years, said he is happy to be a part of another successful year at McDonald's Saipan, which he considers his second family.

Manny Corpuz, who started as a crew member and worked his way up to kitchen department manager, said 11 years with McDonald's Saipan is a "remarkable" accomplishment.

"I'm very happy with my work because we have a very loving and caring boss. She coaches and motivates," Corpuz said about Marcia.

Having a supportive management, Corpuz said, helps him fulfill his responsibility and satisfy customers at the same time.

Anniversary specials

McDonald's Saipan is celebrating its 19th year with week-long promotions. Anniversary specials include special discounts from March 11 to 17 for Oatmeal (any kind) for just \$1.99, Cinnamon Melts for \$1.99, and Happy Meal (any kind) at \$3.99.

Buy a regular-sized McCafe Frappe Caramel and get the second one for only \$0.99. For buyers of the Quarter Pounder Extra Value meal, they can get a second Quarter Pounder sandwich at \$0.99. These specials are available on March 16 and 17 only.

Free bags or shirts will be given away, while supplies last, to customers with at least \$20 purchase tomorrow as Hapi D' Clown provides entertainment for lunch diners at the Middle Road branch.

"We at McDonald's Saipan would like to thank the community for their continued patronage and we give our word that we will continue putting smiles on their faces in more years to come. Above all, we thank the Lord God for graciously showering us with the success that we enjoy after all these years," said Marcia Ayuyu.



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ANCIENT

From Page 1

the Commonwealth so far.

Detailed in the over 100-page document are extensive research on the destination and markets, the CNMI's tourism history, needed tourism projects, and other important recommendations based on solid data gathered, according to Management Analysis Inc. consultant Lynn Knight.

One of the more notable recommendations, she disclosed, is the proposal to apply for World Heritage designation for the ancient Chamorro latte stone on Rota and Tinian. She said experts described the sites as "very special" that would not only bring prestige to the Commonwealth but will create a significant signature attraction for the islands.

Knight disclosed that the team is now trying to find out the requirements for submitting an application with UNESCO, which grants the World Heritage site designation.

"The team believes those sites are special enough that could become World Heritage sites, which will bring

lots of prestige to the CNMI," she said.

Also incorporated in the new master plan are 20 tourism projects recommended for development in the next five years. Some of them can be developed in a short time and do not require so much financial requirements, Knight said.

"Some of these projects are for MVA, some for other agencies, and some for community groups. We really spread the work because tourism is everybody's business and needs everybody's involvement," she said.

The master plan was funded by a \$350,000 grant from the Office of Insular Affairs last year, according to MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and managing director Perry Tenorio. They said that less than \$220,000 was spent to complete the document.

Aldan-Pierce said that one of the important components of the new plan are the surveys taken from all markets, which specifically detailed what tourists actually do on the islands and how much they spent in the CNMI.

According to Tenorio, the plan also incorporates industry feedback and ideas from more than 130 stakeholders on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Japan, Korea,

China, and Guam. It also incorporates the views of more than 2,300 international and American visitors that participated in an exit survey.

"This document will help us to establish a way forward in improving the CNMI's tourism industry," said Tenorio.

Since many of the proposed action items and initiatives will involve other agencies and community groups, Tenorio said that MVA wants to work with the Office of the Governor in creating a leadership framework that will help implement the plan. He said the new plan is designed to connect with the last five-year strategic tourism plan initiated by the government and MVA in 2006.

The master plan was developed for MVA by MAI of Vienna, Virginia, which coordinated a multinational team of experts and a nine-member survey team that was hired locally.

Inos acknowledged OIA for the funding assistance and expressed optimism that MVA will seriously consider the recommendations of the five-year master plan. Also present at yesterday's presentation were MAI president Art Smith.

Joeten finance manager Claudia Tenorio Adriano said in a separate interview that she and five more employees were at the Smiling Cove as early as 6am along with six seven-passenger mini-vans to provide free shuttle service to the ship's passengers and allow them to do their shopping at Joeten stores.

Adriano said their stores—the Hafa Adai Shopping Center in Garapan, Joeten Superstore in San Jose, and the Joeten Susupe Center—all opened at least an hour earlier than usual to accommodate the early shoppers from the ship.

"While it's very understandable that the captain's concern is the safety and well-being of the passengers, we're just really sad that it had come to this because we and a lot of other vendors made a lot of preparations to set up. We're just really sad that the passengers missed out on the beauty that Saipan has to offer and the hospitality that we were ready to show them," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Adriano, who said that this is the first time that they took part in welcoming cruise passengers, assured that they will still take part in any similar events in the future. "It's not going to deter us from trying to do this again in the future. When the next cruise ship is ready to come back, we'll be ready again to provide free shuttle service for the passengers," she added.

Instead of welcoming tourists, elected officials and agency heads who were at the marina yesterday morning ended up talking to vendors who were unable to sell their merchandise.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who was on site at about 8am, said in a statement that the administration understands the "tough decision" the *Queen Mary 2* captain had to make to cancel this part of the cruise, which resulted to passengers missing out the chance to tour the beautiful island of Saipan, enjoy local cuisines, and bring home local mementos.

Inos acknowledged the "quick response" and "understanding" of vendors, government agencies, entertainers, and the rest of the community who got involved in the preparation for the event.

HOUSING

From Page 1

the housing allowance," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday. All seven on the board are voting members.

Part of the benefit package provided to off-island hires at the hospital is a \$600 monthly housing allowance for single employees and \$800 a month for those with families.

In his personal opinion, Torres favors cutting the benefit in half until such time that the corporation recovers from its financial challenges. By doing so, the corporation can generate significant savings while still considering the needs of employees, he said.

The corporation is currently behind in paying this benefit to employees by four months beginning December.

Documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that the hospital spends about \$1.2 million a year for the housing perks of over 200 personnel, most of them nurses hired from the Philippines.

"My position is to keep it for one year until the end of the year but with a reduction of 50 percent. I think that option is reasonable considering the present situation of our hospital. And once we find it suitable enough to bring back the full benefit, the board can always revisit the policy. But for now, without

a reduction of this allowance it would not be sustainable," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

This isn't the first time the hospital considered dropping this benefit. A number of hospital employees were not given their housing perks in 2009, also because of declining government revenue. A large number of off-island hires left the hospital soon after, prompting the restoration of the perk.

Based on the law, the housing allowance could be suspended or terminated, based on the availability of funds.

In an earlier interview, corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said he will favor scrapping the benefit if the corporation finds itself incapable of paying for it.

"If we get to the point where we cannot provide anymore payment for this kind of benefit that they been having for a long time, we cannot continue it. Times are different and times are really tough now. We cannot continue to provide that kind of commitment as much as we would like to," said Babauta. "We're going to set the level of financial commitment on what we can afford and what we cannot afford," he added.

Besides cutting the benefits of employees, the board will also enforce an emergency workforce reduction in the next two weeks to minimize the huge unfunded operational expenditures of the hospital.

FITIAL

From Page 1

from Guam titled, "Manglona is real reason for stalled progress."

Manglona said it is the governor who is stalling progress for not having a plan to help prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan and for giving inaccurate information to foreign investors on the issue of casino on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"It is time for the governor to stop talking and start acting," Manglona said.

Fitial blamed Manglona for "political posturing and misleading the people of the CNMI."

Manglona said the governor must have been talking about himself when he said this.

The governor said every time Manglona is referred to as the longest serving senator, "we are reminded why our struggles cannot be solved."

"How can Manglona say that he is working to address our financial challenges, and in the same breath, lead the charge to defeat the casino bill—a measure that would have provided much needed relief to our fiscal impediments?" said Fitial, who is in Guam for the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

Fitial said he is appalled at Manglona's claims that the Fund's problems are a result of inaction by the administration and the lower house.

"Who is he kidding? It is the Senate that refused to act on critical Fund-related bills passed by the lower house. These were measures that were introduced following discussions with the Fund on possible ways to protect and preserve the life of the Fund," he said.

The Senate president said it is obvious that the governor is not aware of what's really happening with the Fund.

Manglona reiterated that the Senate has come up with bills, initiatives, and recommendations to pro-

long the pension agency's lifespan, but they were either ignored or rejected by the House, which he described yesterday as "controlled" by the administration.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) denied this and said there's nothing wrong with working with the Executive Branch to help improve the economy and the lives of the people.

"The Senate president is using the Retirement Fund saga for his re-election," said Basa, who is also seeking re-election.

Manglona said senators passed Senate Legislative Initiative 17-13, which transfers management decisions of public land golf course leases to the Fund, and SLI 17-14, which transfers funds from the Marianas Public Land Trust to the Fund, but the House has been sitting on them.

He said the House has also ignored SLI 17-15, which sets aside 25 percent of government revenue to pay the government's employer contribution to the Fund, as well as Senate Bill 17-99, which transfers the administrative functions of the Government Life and Health Insurance Program from the Retirement Fund to the Department of Finance.

Fitial, in an interview on Saturday, described Rota and Tinian lawmakers as "stupid" for rejecting yet again a House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. Senators said the governor should be respectful and civil.

The governor, in a statement yesterday, said, "These senators know that I was referring to them and not the good people of the islands of Tinian and Rota."

"It's an extreme pity that these senators are so far consumed by the need to enrich themselves and their special interests that they turn a blind eye on improving the overall welfare of the people of the Commonwealth," the governor added.

Fitial also said, "It is Senator Manglona and his disciple senators that are dividing our people."

CRUISE

From Page 1

The captain of the 1,132-foot long vessel made the decision to cancel the port call, advising passengers and crew members that they will not be allowed to disembark as the rough weather was causing 6- to 8-foot swells with 1 to 2 feet of white caps, and 15- to 20-knot winds—making it unsafe to carry the ship's 4,000 passengers to shore by batches aboard "tenders" or boats.

CNMI Homeland Security special assistant Marvin K. Seman, safety and security coordinator for the *Queen Mary 2* arrival, and Commonwealth Ports Authority Port of Saipan manager Mary Ann Q. Lizama confirmed in a news briefing yesterday at the Boating Safety Office that all these "contributing factors" were taken into account in making the decision.

Seman said their team planned for all contingencies, except for this situation where they had no control over.

"I know everybody was looking forward to it but it's just sad that the weather was not in our favor. I just wish Mother Nature was nicer this year," said Seman, adding that even the Emergency Management Office issued a small craft advisory to warn mariners against rough seas.

Touted as the "most magnificent luxury ocean liner ever built," *Queen Mary 2* is owned by U.K.-based Cunard Lines. It arrived on Saipan waters at 4:45am, anchoring about a mile and a half from the shore at 5:15am but left at 10am, seven hours ahead of schedule.

Cunard Lines also owns *Queen Victoria*, the 964.5-foot cruise ship that docked on Saipan in 2009 and brought over 2,700 passengers and crew members to the island.

CPA's Lizama disclosed that it was the *Queen Victoria's* successful visit that inspired *Queen Mary 2* to include Saipan in its itinerary. "They graciously brought it to our attention that they wanted to explore Saipan," she said, noting that this is the first cruise ship to arrive on Saipan and not disembark passengers.

Seman said that *Queen Mary 2's* vis-

it required 19 months of planning and preparation, including the last and most eventful three to four days needed for site preparations done by over 50 key members of the task force created especially for the ship's visit.

Upon the arrival of *Queen Mary 2* early yesterday morning, Seman said a five-member team composed of himself, CPA and Public Health officials were on board the launch boat *Carolinnian* to conduct an assessment.

Seman noted that they had to wait until daylight "to get a visual and to try to explore the possibility of sending out the passengers" using tenders given the wind and sea conditions.

"I agree with the captain's decision because the conditions were pretty rough. It will be a dangerous situation if the tenders don't perform well so they're not going to risk the safety of their passengers," he said.

Seman, who was among the privileged few to go aboard *Queen Mary 2*, welcomed the ship officials on behalf of the Saipan community. He described the liner as a "very majestic and grand" vessel.

"It's like an entirely different world inside *Queen Mary 2*," said Seman. "No matter how rough the seas were outside, you wouldn't feel it when you're inside the beautiful ship."

Seman said the *Queen Mary 2* task force stayed up until 10pm the night before to secure the Smiling Cove Marina, not only for the ship's passengers and crew members but also for the 18 food and arts and crafts vendors that set up shop in the area as early as 5am yesterday.

About 13 local performing groups were also on standby at the marina but they, too, were dismayed at the cancellation. Around 9am, only task force members and one or two vendor staffers were seen at the site to put away their stuff.

A food vendor manager who wished to remain anonymous said their staff prepared breakfast menu for 200 persons and brought it to the site as early as 6am.

"It's disappointing because it would mean income loss for us," said the manager. "But it was nature that caused it and nobody could have predicted that. We just have to charge it to experience."

Froilan resigns from Covenant, to work on casino initiative

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio submitted yesterday his resignation from the Covenant Party, saying not being politically identified with any political party—should he run again—will provide a better chance for the three initiatives he and others will be working on to succeed. These initiatives include one that seeks to legalize casino gambling on Saipan.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, said he has not decided if he's running for re-election in Precinct 1. But he said if he decides to run again, he will run as an independent candidate.

He said he and several others will be working to get three popular initiatives approved by voters in the general election.



Tenorio

"And I feel that we have a better chance of succeeding in this effort if I am not politically identified with any party. We need to have the support of everyone. One of these initiatives is to legalize casino gambling on Saipan. We must have a new source for our government

because we are not generating enough," Tenorio said in a one-page letter addressed to Covenant Party chair Gregorio M. Camacho.

Tenorio also asked for the support of the Covenant Party for this initiative, and extends his best wishes to the party in the election. The mid-term election will be on Nov. 6.

He was the author of the Saipan casino bill that the Senate killed in 2010. The Senate killed a similar proposal last week.

Copies of Tenorio's resignation letter were also sent to Covenant Party titular head Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Ramon D. Palacios (Cov-Saipan).

Demapan, when asked for comment, said he's not surprised by Tenorio's move.

"Anyone who knew him understood why he did it. I would guess he is on a mission and will continue to fight for what he believes is right for his people," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Villagomez said, "That is his decision and I have to respect it."

Other Covenant Party members also left the party and joined Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at the Republican Party, which the governor now heads again.

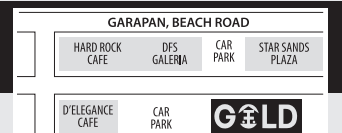
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CUC: Rota power plant is most fuel efficient

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae rates the Rota power plant as the most fuel efficient in the Commonwealth after the recent completion of various improvements.

Malae disclosed yesterday that the Office of Insular Affairs and the local Capital Improvement Project office paid for two brand new generators and other power plant improvements on Rota.

These were all completed in December 2011.

Malae describes the January production report on Rota as very encouraging.

According to him, Rota's fuel consumption per unit of energy produced declined by 23 percent.

The Rota power plant's average monthly fuel consumption last year was 70,901 gallons. In the January 2012 report, monthly usage was at 54,891 gallons, a decline of 16,010 gallons.

The amount of energy expended to produce power at the plant also declined by 76 percent—from 73,063 kWh a month in 2011 to 17,220 kWh in January 2012.

Lube oil consumption also declined, this time by 13 percent—from the 2011 monthly average of 276 gallons to 241

gallons in January 2012.

"The savings was worth about \$80,000 from that one power plant on Rota. These savings are computed directly into the LEAC [levelized energy adjustment clause] and thus, at the end of the six-month reckoning period, this will appear as an 'over-collection' and would reduce the next LEAC," Malae said yesterday.

The \$80,846 per month savings is composed of the following: fuel savings per month (\$63,673); station usage savings per month (\$16,753); and lube oil savings per month (\$420).

According to Malae, Rota had the least efficient of the islands' power plants before the new engines were commis-

sioned in December. Now Rota is the most efficient, producing 14.6 kWh per gallon of diesel, followed by Tinian with 14.1 kWh/gallon. Saipan produces 13.6 kWh per gallon of diesel.

In terms of most efficient per "station service"—or percent of energy expended to produce electricity—the Rota power plant is the most efficient at 2.1 percent followed by power plant 4 on Saipan at 3.1 percent; the Tinian power plant with 5.5 percent; power plant 1 on Saipan at 6.1 percent; and power plant 2 on Saipan at 8.0 percent.

In two weeks' time, crew from Saipan will travel to Rota to improve and extend the power distribution system with Rota line crews.

Presentation by World War II vet today

The public is invited to a presentation by retired Lt. Gen. Lawrence F. Snowden at 1pm today at the Visitors Center Theater of the American Memorial Park.

Snowden will discuss his memories of the World War II battles for Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima and field questions from the audience.

He will be joined by Pam Marvin, widow of the late actor Lee Marvin, who was also a Saipan combat veteran.

Snowden enlisted in the Marine Corps just after Pearl Harbor and was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1942.

He subsequently fought in some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific Theater as a platoon and company commander.

In addition to World War II, Snowden also served in Korea and Vietnam and concluded his military career as chief of staff of Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

This event is a part of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Community Lecture Series. It is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information, contact Council staff at 235-4785. (PR)



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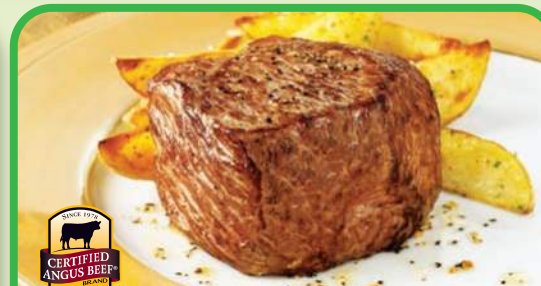
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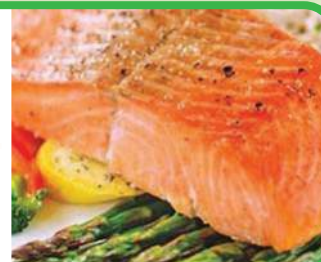
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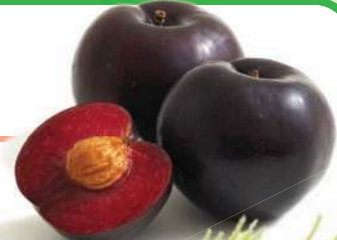
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PSS energy project still waiting for go-signal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's green energy project remains waiting for the go-signal from the U.S. Division of Fish and Wildlife, according to Saipan Southern High School principal Jesse Tudela yesterday.

The project was temporarily put on hold last year due PSS' failure to secure the necessary permit in building the wind turbines at the Manta Ray campus.

The decision of Fish and Wildlife was initially expected in January but Tudela said this was delayed to the end of this month.

"The project is still ongoing but we need to wait for the final decision [on the wind turbines] from the federal agency. We're optimistic that the decision will come out very soon, hopefully this month," he said.

The CNMI Division of Energy received \$6.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy last year for renewable projects, \$2.4 million of which was given to PSS for the installation of wind turbines and solar panels at 11 schools.

In March last year, a groundbreaking was held at SSHS for the building of six 95-foot wind turbines and 95 solar panels on campus. After the project's completion, SSHS is expected to produce as much as 165 kilowatts, enough to power the entire campus and

save up to \$200,000 in utility costs annually.

Tudela said that government agencies involved in the project were recently on campus for onsite inspection.

"We're expecting the solar panels to be operational anytime as soon as these are connected," he said.

However, the installation of the six wind turbines at the campus has yet to happen pending the decision of Fish and Wildlife. The green energy project was initially targeted to be completed within 2011.

Saipan Tribune learned that the green energy project was first conceptualized for Saipan Southern by former principal Craig Garrison who applied for the grant. This has been expanded to include the entire PSS to help other schools. Fish and Wildlife officials visited the site in summer last year and ordered the temporary work stoppage on the wind turbine phase of the project.

The project was awarded to Pacific Green Integrated Technology Inc. and Pacific Wind & Solar, LLC in September 2010.

NMTI offers free skills based courses

Northern Marianas Trades Institute is offering free skills based courses in small business ownership, sales and marketing, barbering, medical billing specialist, life guarding certification, PADI dive master course,

and agricultural trainings. The best in the business have been selected to teach these courses. In addition, job seeking and employment placement services will be provided for course participants. For more

information call Ray or Fred at 234-3014 / 234-3015. Each course may have differing prerequisites that will be used to determine participant selection. You must apply to get selected. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 16, 2000

Court stops deportation of asylum seeker

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday temporarily stopped the Department of Labor and Immigration from carrying out deportation order against Bangladesh national Juyel Ahmed. In his order, Judge Bellas scheduled a hearing on March 23, 2000 to finally determine whether Mr. Ahmed should be deported while he has a pending application for asylum. He has directed Maj. Ignacio Celis, supervisor of the Department of Labor and Immigration Detention Center, to release Mr. Ahmed from detention following certain conditions, which include regular appearance in court hearings and reporting to an immigration officer.

SFW grants \$160K for Rota marina construction

With a \$160,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sports Fish Restoration-Boating Access Program, the Rota Marina will be completed before the end of the year. According to Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman, Rota marina will have a minimum of 16 slips which can later on be expanded once the funds are available. An architectural and engineering firm has already been chosen to do the job in Rota marina. Currently, DFW is also working on the repair of Tinian marina which has 16 slips.

Mar. 16, 2001

Phone deprivation proposal OK'd

A proposal that seeks to mete out stringent penalties against individuals who would cut telephone lines to cause discomfort or harass others is now a step ahead. The Deprivation of Communications Act hurdled the House of Representatives yesterday, with congressmen passing on to the Senate the decision to describe the offense as either misdemeanor or a felony. Members of the lower chamber failed to reach a consensus in terms of classifying the act of communication deprivation as a crime or just a misdemeanor. But they said okay to the proposed measure, just the same.

Medical referral patients refused in Hawaii, Guam

The strained relationship between the Commonwealth and Queen's Medical Center has affected patients who were sent off island for medical services since most Hawaii-based hospitals no longer honor the CNMI health card. Aside from Queen's, Straub Health Center also stopped accepting health cards from Northern Marianas unless accompanied by a request for an off-island treatment issued by the Medical Referral Office. In addition, Group Health and Life Insurance Program subscribers are also being turned away by hospitals in Guam, making it doubly hard for subscribers to get the necessary medical attention immediately. Legislators aired concern that these problems may prod health and life insurance subscribers to seek legal opinion due to inconvenience caused by unsettled debts incurred by GHLI Branch and the health department.

Mar. 16, 2003

'No to part-time work for guest workers'

Instead of guest workers, the local government should rather allow international students to get part-time jobs in the CNMI, according to Northern Marianas College dean for community programs and services Tony Deleon Guerrero. Guerrero said the NMC is actually petitioning the Legislature to amend the law that prohibits foreign students from getting employed in the CNMI. This, he said, would further boost the NMC's Pacific gateway plan, which aims to attract more foreign students into the CNMI. "This is what we're suggesting to the Legislature. If they do that, more international students will be encouraged to come here because they can earn while studying," he said.

Fitial sues Variety for libel

Former Speaker of the House Benigno R. Fitial has sued Younis Art Studio, Inc., publisher of the *Marianas Variety*, for allegedly libeling him in a series of politically motivated publicity in 2001. The \$2.5 million suit noted that letters and paid political advertisements placed by Rep. Stanley T. Torres falsely accused the plaintiff of accepting a bribe in 1985. On various other dates following the publication of the political advertisements, the *Marianas Variety* published articles relating to the false allegation. By use and publication of the words, innuendo and language contained in the publications, Fitial says the *Variety* intended to assert that he had committed a crime.

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Land taking fight, now on 19th year, reaches high court

»Govt owes Mangabao heirs \$15.8M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The legal fight of the heirs of Maria Mangabao over the government's taking of their land in Chalan Kiya in 1993 has now reached the CNMI Supreme Court.

The heirs claimed that until now they have not received a single penny despite a court order.

Island leaders meet on Compact Impact issues

Tony Babuata, the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, convened the Pacific Island Leaders Addressing Compact Impact meeting with Micronesian chief executives yesterday.

Participants include Palau President Johnson Toribiong, Federated States of Micronesia President Emanuel Mori, Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial, Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, Kosrae Gov. Lyndon Jackson, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, and Yap Gov. Sebastian Anefal. Hawaii Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz and staff participated in the meeting through videoconference.

The chief executives joined in the first meeting of its kind, as island leaders gathered to develop strategies to address policy issues concerning the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Freely Associated States.

Office of Insular Affairs staff presented on the Interior Department's efforts to respond to congressional concerns regarding education, reaffirming COFA migrant rights, privileges, and responsibilities, healthcare and the feasibility of constructing dialysis facilities in the Marshalls and FSM, and attempts to develop screening measures for COFA migrants prior to departing their country of origin.

Additional presentations included resource allocation and management of Compact sector grants and Compact Impact funding for affected jurisdictions and the FAS. Since 2004, \$105 million in OIA funding has been dedicated for school infrastructure projects and \$7 million for the maintenance of health and education infrastructure in the FAS.

"PILACI speaks to our collective effort to respond and develop collaborative solutions to regional concerns. I am pleased that our dialogue was candid and constructive in recognizing the challenges and responsibilities of each stakeholder as we unitedly cultivate a way forward. There was consensus among the chiefs to carry out a cooperative response that is not only thoughtful but mindful of the fiscal constraints," said Babuata. (DOI)

They said the government now owes them \$15.8 million, including interest rate at \$2,800 daily.

Attorney Edward C. Arriola, who served as counsel for the heirs in their appeal, told the Supreme Court yesterday that the heirs have been deprived of their constitutional right to just compensation.

"March 31 this year marks 19 long years of deprivation of their rights for just compensation," Arriola said.

Assistant attorney general

Michael Stanker, counsel for the government, cited a CNMI law that says the judgment may only be paid if the Legislature specifically appropriates money for it. He said the Legislature has failed to do so up to now.

In an interview after the hearing, Arriola said the court has already adjudicated the case, yet despite a court order in which the government consented to the amount, it still refuses to pay the compensation.

"The issue on appeal is this:

Which is the supreme law of the land—the Constitution or the statute? And I think the court really understands that the supreme law of the land is the Constitution," Arriola said.

He said that, although there has been no discussion with the government on this, the heirs are willing to accept land exchange value for value.

According to court records, the government and the heirs have stipulated to the taking of land consisting of over 6,000 square meters in 1993 and a judgment of \$4,196,524.

In 2009, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja found the government liable to pay \$11.4 million to the heirs over the land taking.

In March 2011, Naraja ruled that while the court can adjudicate disputes between private parties and the government, only the Legislature can appropriate funds to satisfy judgments like these, which it has not done.

"Accordingly, the court's hands are tied," Naraja said.

The ruling prompted the heirs to appeal.

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Opportunity meets challenges

By BETTY BAI
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The U.S. visa process poses significant barriers to growth of tourism industries. On Feb. 13, the U.S. Embassy in China launched a new U.S. visa application policy, aimed at reducing the arduous application processing time to three weeks. Chinese applicants will now be allowed to renew their visas that have expired for less than four years without further interviews. Furthermore, the U.S. Embassy has also added 50 visa officers to its China service. Visa processing capacity in China is likely to increase by up to 40 percent in 2012. The new visa policy benefits both the U.S. and China tourism industries and is welcomed by U.S. consumer industries as well.

In China, outbound travel agencies used to advise their clients to register 50 days, even 100 days for statutory holidays, ahead of schedule. Once the travelers had other plans or could not make the schedule, they were likely to give up their trip to a U.S. destination and places where there is a lot less complicated visa requirement or no visa is required at all, such as the CNMI, might become their alternative choice.

The new, simplified U.S. visa procedure will definitely facilitate travel and help boost U.S. tourism. However, some business people in the CNMI interpret the new U.S. visa policy negatively and say it could worsen the current tourism situation on the islands. They have no shred of doubt that it does no favors to the CNMI.

External factors make a lot of people nervous, proof that the CNMI tourism business is fragile and highly vulnerable.

Recently a press release revealed that Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI are together pushing a unique and isolated visa waiver program catering to Chinese and Russian tourists.

Currently, tourists from China and Russia travel to the CNMI for a maximum of 45 days to stay without a visa requirement.

Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI share similar elements of tropical destinations. By participating in removing visa restrictions for Hawaii and Guam, the CNMI is sort of promoting its rivals, but what can the CNMI do? Maybe the CNMI would be inclined to just to let the issue crank out or maybe it is simply a grudging acceptance of the facts and feels sorry for itself.

Speaking of fairness, Hawaii and Guam have every right to pursue their own interests; so does the U.S. mainland. Hawaii and Guam also have their clout among D.C. politicians.

Self-pity won't do the CNMI any good. While any associated impacts on CNMI tourism remains to be seen, this poses a huge test to the government on how to protect the local tourism industry and how to sustain economic growth.

The CNMI is also facing internal challenges; its tourism industry has hardly been flawless. It has a dauntingly long list of things to do right: upgrade the tourist facilities; stabilize the airlines; open new flights routes; diversify markets; stop the infighting; and unify the tourism industries of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands by promoting each island's uniqueness, offering tourists an integrated, ONE Commonwealth.

Bracing for competition, the CNMI joins Hawaii and Guam to promote Pacific islands as a group of tropical travel destinations. The CNMI won't be able to control external factors but it should at least be willing to do something when circumstances require. Presumably, the CNMI being selfless would get credit, recognition, or acknowledgement by Hawaii and Guam in return for sharing tourism resources in the future. Let's hope this is not just wishful thinking.

Betty Bai is the publisher of the Chinese newspaper in the CNMI.

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Viewpoints

By JOSEPH ITO PANGELINAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last of a three-part series

Editor's Note: Due to the length of this submission, it is being published as a three-part series.

I write this with the belief that both proponents and opponents can and should freely express their opinions respectfully and with open minds. This allows the public an opportunity to make an informed decision based on healthy debate of the issues and facts surrounding the question of whether to keep or abolish Article 12.

VIEWPOINT 3: We need Article 12 to protect us from losing our land.

The current law under Article 12 mandates that anyone who has land could lease (restricted to limited years), sell (restricted to NMD) or keep their land. No one could be forced to sell or lease their land. If a landowner decides to sell or lease his or her land, he or she gets compensated for the land being leased or sold. So a seller or lessor did not lose his or her land—it is voluntary. He or she received monetary or other value in return as form of compensation that may be used to buy more land or improve the livelihood of his or her family. The same would be true without Article 12, EXCEPT the buyer pool would be larger, because there would be no buyer restrictions based on NMD definitions. Abolishing Article 12 does NOT force anyone to sell or “lose” their land. If an NMD is “forced” (meaning economically no choice) to sell their land, they will, regardless of Article 12. The difference is, the desperate seller will get the most potential benefit without Article 12. If the NMD doesn't want to sell to a non-NMD, then the NMD doesn't have to. It's as simple as that. It is about expanding options and choices, especially for the poor and possibly uneducated NMDs in today's poor economy. There is no logic to claim otherwise.

The proponents of Article 12 want to control the landowner's right as to who he or she can sell his or her land to and limit the term of the lease term when leasing to a non-NMD citizen. Opponents of Article 12 want you as landowner to decide for yourself whether you want to lease, sell, or give away your land. If you want your family to have land, don't sell it—this is true without Article 12. With Article 12, however, if you want your land to stay within your family, you had better make sure none of your children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren have non-NMD qualified children. Seriously, this is what Article 12 does. It tells you who you can and cannot give or sell your land to,

even if it is within your own family. Period.

Individual landowners should be allowed to make their own decision to either sell, lease, or give away their land. The government should not be allowed to make decisions for us regarding land we own as private citizens. Article 12 proponents are telling NMDs that they are doing this for “our own good” like a parent guiding a child. Even children are free to do as they please legally once they hit 18 or 21 years of age. It has been 25 years; we are ready and able to decide for ourselves if we keep our land or who we sell or give our land to.

Article 12 still allows NMDs to be landless, please don't forget this. No NMD buyer is going to give back the land to the NMD seller. The bottom line is the fact that abolishing Article 12 will not force NMD to lease or sell his or her land. Instead, abolishing Article 12 will give landowners the full value of their land and the rights to enjoy full ownership without the government dictating who they can sell it to or how long they can lease it out. NMDs should be encouraged not to sell their land, but they should not be prevented from selling to whomever they want to.

VIEWPOINT 4: Article 12 is not a deterrent to businesses investing here in the CNMI.

STOP and THINK and LOOK around. The “boom” days are over. The world is a different place today, and there are no investors. Look around. Yes, Article 12 was still around when the “boom” happened, but again the world has changed. Nobody is here investing anymore, and Article 12 is a deterrent for investors in today's economy especially. Investors come to the CNMI to become part of the community and also make a profit in the business they undertake. It is a fallacy that even with Article 12 good investors will still come and do business in the CNMI. Prudent investors know that they will more than likely not recover the value of their investment as the term of the lease decreases. Even if they do business in the CNMI, they will not invest more money in upgrading or expanding their business as the balance of the lease term decreases. They will not likely get a buyer for their leasehold interest without suffering a severe loss.

The La Fiesta building in San Roque and garment factories are good examples. These buildings would not have been abandoned if the owners had fee simple to the property. They would have found other business alternative to continue their investment on the island and continue to provide a tax base for our government to help NMDs get the basic services and assistance they need from our government.

Joseph Ito Pangelinan describes himself as 50-percent Northern Marianas descent by true blood but 100-percent NMD by definition.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A look at Apple

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



If you haven't stuck your head into financial news lately, I'll note a figure so big it eclipsed everything else: By the end of last month the value of Apple Inc. went over the \$500 billion mark. And March has also been kind to Apple, as its stock price keeps climbing, resulting in a value (known as "market capitalization") of \$550 billion as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, Apple has amassed more cash than any other U.S. corporation. It's sitting on a tidy stash of \$97.6 billion. Dang, if I had coin like that, maybe I could fill up my SUV with gas.

Saipan's consumers have helped fuel the Apple success story, but I guess we can say that about consumers everywhere in the world. And, naturally, there won't be a corner of the planet where MBAs aren't churning out waves of case studies fishing for insights on Apple's big success.

Lots of people will be plumbing different parts of the action. Marketing types will study Apple's marketing, computer wonks

will ponder Apple's technology, retail experts will analyze Apple's stores, and so on. That's on the clean side of the street. Meanwhile, on the seedy underbelly, boiler room hustlers will be pitching penny stocks to widows and orphans, assuring them they're getting a ground-floor opportunity in the "next Apple."

Apple is such a big phenomenon that even people who don't think about such things can't help thinking about it.

As big as this gig is, small fry vendors aren't left out of it. According to a March 12 editorial in Barron's financial weekly, Apple's App Store has shelled out more than \$4 billion in payments to independent app writers since the introduction of the iPhone in 2007. I don't know if anyone on Saipan has been part of this action, but it would be feasible for those with the right skills.

You may know that Apple products are typically made in China by various manufactures (though other places and arrangements might be involved as well, I don't really know). So the big profits for Apple don't come from actually making what they design and sell, since the making part is handed to someone else. There's food for thought in this, and it came to my attention via yet another computer company, Acer, of Taiwan.

It was Acer's founder, Stan Shih, who is credited with conceiving of a simple little curve known as the "smiling curve." This reflects the value added by different stages of an IT product's life cycle, going from concept to consumer. It's a U-shaped curve, with the ends (high parts) of the "U" being the most valuable points, and the bottom (center) of the "U" being the least valuable point.

By "valuable," I mean value added, which should be a reflection of how much profit juice it has.

Anyway, the left part of the "U" represents the concept, design, and branding phases, so that's one realm of the greatest value added,

the middle point of the "U" represents the manufacturing phase, so there's your lowest area of value added; and then the right side of the "U" represents the marketing and sales phase, yet another realm that adds the most value added.

I've seen this graph presented various ways over the years, so I'm just picking a few highlights.

But it sure makes sense when we think about what Apple has done so well over the years. The powerful concepts of its products, the popularity of its designs, and the strength of its brand are famous attributes that even non-Apple customers like me are aware of.

Something else that strikes me is how effectively Apple has broadened its offerings over the years, going from computers to music players to smart phones to tablets to, well, to stuff that I'm surely not aware of yet. And, indeed, I know people, and you probably do too, who own a Mac computer, and an iPod, and an iPhone, and an iPad.

This brings to mind a Saipan hotel manager who told me that the goal of his hotel was to keep the guests "on the property" as much as possible, by offering a lot of services (dining, drinking, dancing, recreation, sports, shopping, etc.) so the guest expenditures would also stay on the property. That's not a cynical gig, it's perfectly sensible, since nobody will go there, or stay there, unless they want to be there to begin with.

So it seems that Apple is good at keeping folks on the property. Whether we're in the computer industry, hotel business, tourism field, or, well, anything else, Apple probably has some business lessons to heed.

After all, you can argue about who makes the best computers, but you can't argue with success.

Pension: Right or entitlement?

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Retirees aren't looking for an entitlement on money they've invested in the Retirement Fund for 20-plus years. They've participated in their investments directly, the other side being the fiduciary responsibility of government per the law establishing the Fund in 1979 to remit its share. They looked forward to a return on their investments after meeting 20 or so years of government service.

An uncle, a government plumber for 20 years, started investing a portion of his salary biweekly as a member of the Fund. After 20 years, he retired for it was time "to surrender to the younger folks." He was confident his investment would pay for health insurance and other obligations to get by as a simple person.

"Now they are saying that Fund has only two years to go. What then becomes of me and other retirees when the Fund dries up?" he asked, puzzled at the impending hardship he had to endure. "If the government failed to pay its share, isn't it its responsibility to borrow somewhere so it could complete its legal obligation?"

My uncle, a bit weak and fragile due to age, ponders his livelihood after the Fund goes belly up. "If administrations have failed to pay, why are we now the victims of its indecision or lack of responsibility to meet an obligation?" This collective Republican failure must be one trophy of malfeasance and misfeasance in public office that governance will never ever forget.

I admire Senate President Paul Manglona's use of raw political power to push the governor into his rightful place on this issue. Why would he shirk and skirt his responsibilities to answer questions directly at a forum conducted by the Govendo court? Isn't this attitude a true reflection of his MO when it comes to real-time problem solving? Sir, retirees aren't asking for "better times" per your failed promises. They are only asking for a share of their investments into the Fund. Does this make sense at all?

The simplest answer is for the administration to take out a bond obligation and pay off its debt, including subsequent obligations every time, all the time as asserted by my uncle.

I don't know how else would it deal with an issue given a huge loss in revenue streams. And the only people that want us to think that our investment in the Fund is an entitlement are the politicians who made sure the program steers clear of solvency. They've created a colossal fiscal disaster while they ask, with head in the sand, "Is the beast is gone already?" A' Saina!

■ ■ ■

Midterm election: Offer, anybody?

With the economy still sliding to rock bottom, it would be interesting what new and old politicians have to offer voters when they hit the campaign trail this year. Should be excellent fodder for casual or probing discussions by governance. And, boys, excuse me, we want real answers not tired and redundant rhetoric regurgitated time and again in recent past.

So far we have laws against hanging undergarments outside in Garapan, bicycling, two basketball rims, proposed casino (twice shot down by governance). Notice that none of these issues deal with the apocalyptically deteriorating economy that includes increases in fees for utilities, gas at the pumps, basic commodities, work hour reduction, and quizzing what's next after payless paydays for retirees? Notice that none had the courage to push the administration to permit implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP?

Is it because they each receive more than \$40K per year, sufficiently above what most folks earn annually that isn't even subject to austerity? What callousness prolonging the status quo, scuffolding their interest over the general public. Is this your definition of leadership succumbing to mediocrity in terms of performance? What have you done individually or collectively to improve the livelihood of villagers who yearn for answers?

If the economy is such a humongous and blurry issue in your adolescent mind, have you sought for professional assistance so you could, in concert with private industries, coherently navigate your way through it with an educated inkling of the nature of the beast? If your performance lands squarely on mediocrity, why would you want us to believe that a second term would produce miracles? Isn't your track record a sufficient tale of your future in policymaking, usually confused and disoriented? Please, explain yourself in the vernacular with real clarity what your plans are this time. And please do so without sliding into tired rhetoric and redundancy. We need to hear fresh and thoroughly researched ideas, *di ba?* Let's see you justify your existence!

■ ■ ■

Republic of the Philippines

I've always been interested in what the Republic of the Philippines does as an island country. I do so for it was once a Commonwealth of the U.S. before it decided to declare independence and bolt out on its own. Indeed, it must have been a difficult issue to resolve but they did so, albeit the challenges it faces as a new republic.

Indeed, it has its own travails as a developing independent coun-

try during its incipient years. It had to endure the wraths of a dictator they subsequently ousted from office. Today, it has regained political stability, its most important asset as it sets sail to rebuild and move forward with lasting partnership on investments from powerful tiger and lion countries that give it stronger muscles to rein in wealth and jobs creation.

Through its own research and development, it came out with a boneless milkfish and recently shipped some nine tons of it to China. Again, through R&D it shifted the taste and scent of a certain banana that suits the palate of Japanese consumers. It resolved diseases that adversely affected its cocoa industry by flying in its own scientist from Florida. And it is now the likely home of a huge automobile spare parts and automobile production from big brand names out of Japan. It has capitalized on the billion-dollar non-sweet sugar industry using coconut sap on a global basis. It's her political stability that has made it the center of attraction from major investors in Asia.

Other than her forte in the high-tech industry, these are some of the areas it has undertaken destined for global markets that would improve income and jobs generation for her people. As I read and digest these undertakings, I quiz what have we exported from the NMI to the global market. I mean global includes Europe, Asia, the U.S., and other Western economies. I recall having seen tons of clothing shipped off to markets during the peak of the apparel industry here. When it shut down, it shut the floodgates of exports concurrently too. Did I miss something here?

Letters to the Editor

Stupid idea






The idea to have a "fee simple" on all properties leased to outside investors is a stupid idea. Why? Those properties belong to the people of the Commonwealth collectively. It is the individual, privately-owned properties that should be allowed to sell to whoever they want "fee simple." The government properties that belong to the people of the CNMI collectively should not be transferred to outsiders without the consent of the people. It is stupid for any administration to do that. Article 12 is stupid. I do not want the government to tell me what to do with my own private property. I should be allowed to sell my property to any U.S. citizen. Get rid of Article 12, we are not babies that need baby sitting. It is the government that should not be allowed to sell the people's property. Public land belongs to the people, not the administration. That is where the general idea of article 12 should be applied and not on individual privately-owned properties.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo 1, Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly sunny and windy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 35 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

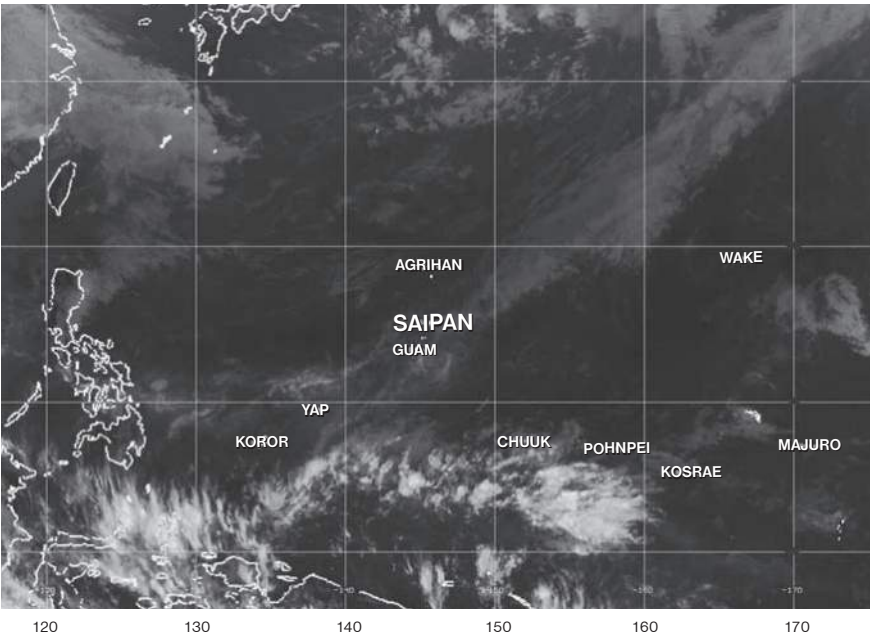
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 31
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 60
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 80 ▼ 69
New York	Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 51
Osaka	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 44
Pusan	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 41
Rome	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 45
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 53 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Seoul	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 35
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 54

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
9:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
2:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
10:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line northwest of Wake Island runs from 25N165E through Guam then continues north of Yap and Koror to beyond 9N130E. Low clouds and scattered showers can be found along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary mainly east of 149E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror, Yap, Chuuk and Pohnpei up to 280 miles north of a line that extends from EQ130E to 3N143E to 3N150E to 1N158E. An upper low centered just east of the dateline at 18N is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 13N and 19N from 174E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Tuesday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:19 AM	12:57 PM
Saturday	2:12 AM	1:54 PM
Sunday	3:00 AM	2:48 PM
Monday	3:44 AM	3:41 PM
Tuesday	4:25 AM	4:32 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letters to the Editor

Another CNMI economic catastrophe

Like many others who had prepared for the arrival of the *Queen Mary 2* and its thousands of visitors, I had taken off work and prepared my "Trikes for 2 Tours of Saipan" for passengers. Needless to say, the *Queen Mary 2* could not unload its passengers because *our government failed* again, making the entire event a complete economic catastrophe.

I can only imagine the frustration of the business sector and the individuals that were up late at night and up early in the morning for nothing. Businesses and individuals had prepared for this event, spending money on products, preparing local dishes, having advertisements printed specifically for the *Queen Mary 2* and a host of other investments that all went down the drain. But that is just for openers. There was literally tens of thousands of dollars sitting offshore waiting to be spent on Saipan and we couldn't get

one penny of it. More importantly, if you insert the multiplier-effect of the spending from the *Queen Mary 2* I'm sure it would have easily amounted to over a hundred thousand dollars that could have been injected *directly* into our economy.

And then there's the backlash that the CNMI might experience in the future as I'm sure this was also a big disappointment to the shipping line and the passengers. The damage to our reputation as a port-of-call may be irreparable anytime soon and we won't see any more cruise lines until we can prove that we are reliable and worthy of being a port-of-call for their passengers. The cruise line has also taken a hit from our government's failure and it is obvious we messed up big time!

I am holding the government accountable and the Executive Office in particular, which is responsible for *making sure* the

support systems and infrastructure for these types of economic activities are successful. The people in charge of this operation were all appointed or subject to the governor's leadership but I'm not blaming the people at the bottom, as there were too many involved and it seems that *no one* was actually in charge of *everything*, but the buck stops at the Governor's Office. There were all kinds of Indians doing the work to prepare for the arrival but there was no chief—so it was destined for some kind of screw-up. Being an educator and using basic observation skills it was easy for me to see that it is the same old problem: *poor leadership* and *someone did not do their home work!*

All contingencies for the arrival of the *Queen Mary 2* should have been covered—it was too important and valuable to our economy—no excuse. The only reason that the ship should not

have been able to dock would have been a serious act of nature such as a storm or typhoon. The government's failure to have the

sufficient number of tugboats available *is not* acceptable, especially when we have the boats that could have been fixed and we could have hired private tugs to be on standby because we have known far in advance that the ship was coming. My goodness, the CNMI is supposed to

be a tourist destination but they can't even get off the ship! But just think, the majority voted for this, which is an excellent example of why we are suffering, poor, and with no leadership.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

MVA on vacation in Russia?

When it was reported that MVA was making a trip to Russia to promote tourism in the CNMI the red flags went up. If history repeats itself, this is likely to be another failed taxpayer-paid vacation for local fearless leaders.

Here's my suggestion. Make sure someone takes a video of the MVA group actually working and showing up at their CNMI promo booth every day. When I went to the big tourism fair in Shanghai, the CNMI booth was empty both days we were there. Another free trip paid for by taxpayers and nobody worked.

With prior attendance of 79,930 at this Moscow tourism event in 2011, the MVA staff will have to be doing a lot of talking all day long every day, and meetings all night long promoting the CNMI. Boy, we better see some confirmation that any of you even left your hotel rooms and showed up!

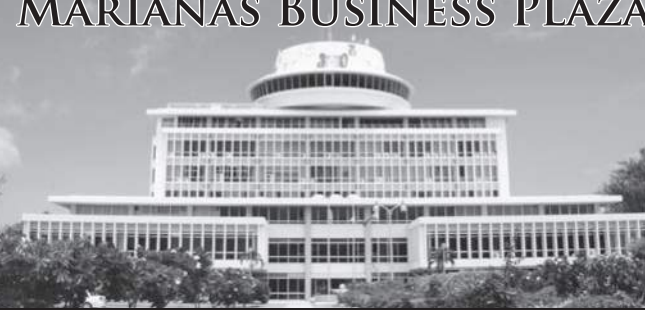
MVA says they are organizing "invitation only" presentations to selected groups to promote the CNMI. Hahaha, this "invitation only" approach sounds like a pile of crapola and is only a shrewd way of covering themselves for not having to work the floor every day and talk to hundreds of people at this event. You see if you organize "invitation only" presentations, then all you do is sit in your aircon room and wait for people to show up, dim the lights and hit the PowerPoint and DVD. If nobody shows up, well, "not our fault." But if you're there on the convention floor in the booth 10 to 12 hours every day and working it, baby, you'll get leads, make contacts, and you'll come back with data that has some value.

I fear the MVA group again is going to fail and not maximize their best efforts for the CNMI,

but will instead enjoy the vodka and a good hotel bed.

Chris West
Santa Monica, Calif.

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Letters to the Editor

No to shooting range

To the residents of Sadog Tasi Drive, other parts of Sadog Tasi, As Mahetog, and Puerto Rico: An outdoor facility composed of a shooting range, an archery range, paintball games, and bike trails is being proposed to be built at the end of Sadog Tasi Drive. The proposed site area of 48,000 square meters, lot number 22616 REM, is

presently zoned rural. A zoning bill presently before Gov. Fitial for his signature proposes to change all of Sadog Tasi from rural to village-commercial. A public hearing for the proposed outdoor amusement area was postponed from March 14, 2012, to some date next month, according to a staff member of the Zoning Office in Dandan.

Almost all of the residents of Sadog Tasi Drive have signed a petition against the permitting of such an outdoor amusement area. If allowed, the proposed facility will expose young children and adult residents to possible stray bullets and stray arrows. Every morning and afternoon school children walk on Sadog Tasi Drive to and from

the school bus stop. Every day children in the neighborhood play outdoors and adults walk outdoors for good health and exercise. Loud gunshot noises will disturb the peace and quiet of residents and farm animals in the area.

We urge residents living near the proposed outdoor amusement area to attend the public hearing next month at the Zoning Office in Dandan and express their concerns. A shooting range and an archery range do not belong in a quiet, residential area. For the new public hearing

date, expect an announcement in the newspaper, or call the Zoning Office at 234-9661.

We also urge Governor Fitial not to sign the bill presently before him, which would rezone major areas on Saipan from rural to commercial. Saipan needs economic development, but not development that disturbs the health, safety, peace, and quiet of residents and tourists alike.

Lupe Camacho
Borja-Robinson
John H. Robinson
Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Shame on you

This is an open letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial whom I had always admired for being a person who followed his dream of becoming a governor despite losing twice but never gave up until he became successful. Now with

the issue at hand, I would like to say shame on you Fitial for calling "some people from Rota and Tinian stupid." If you want to lower your level to that of a stupid person and want to publicly attack an elected official, by all

means do it because they are fair game, but never ever mention Rota and Tinian in your stupid comment because that is a direct attack on the people of Rota and Tinian. It clearly shows your lack of respect for our islands and our people. I wonder whether you are teaching your kids hatred toward other people. Your com-

ment definitely stirs up hate in my heart. I am glad that my family and I never voted for you and I pity those who voted for you during the last election because this is a slap on our face. Rest assured though that you will never garner a single vote from Rota in the near future should you have plans in running for the Office of

CNMI Delegate to Washington D.C. I remembered a time back in the 1970's when people from Rota and Saipan do not see eye to eye. Your comment definitely can conjure up old bad feelings where your people are not safe coming to *i gatbo na* island Luta. Be forewarned.

Janry A. Santos
Teneto Village, Rota

The good doctor

I just want to comment about what's happening with the Rota Health Center. I know that we on Rota are not always in the lime-light because we are too remote but despite the crisis in health-care, I and the people of Rota are so grateful to have a doctor who is so flexible and is genuinely helping all people in this time of crisis. I think he needs to be recognized of all his efforts and concern for the people of Rota. Dr. François Claassens, MD is so down to earth and almost all patients go to him because they trust him and he is really a good doctor. I might just be the one that sent this email but if you try to come over and make a survey about how great his contributions are as far as helping the people of the island is concerned, you would find out the he is loved and respected by the common people.

Genoveve Lubrica
Rota

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to John Reyes Jr., who celebrated his birthday on March 14. May the Lord fill your life with many, many blessings! Your family loves you! Greetings come from your three boys: JD, Don-don, Coby, and Roy Jr., Draven Franko, and the Benavente family.

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Feel the difference

Man gets prison term for threat to behead stepdad

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed an 18-month prison sentence on a man who had threatened to behead his stepfather with a machete.

In a written order issued yesterday, Wiseman sentenced Faustino P. Litulumar to two years in prison, all suspended except for 18 months, for assault with a dangerous weapon.

The 22-year-old Litulumar was given credit for the four months and 30 days that he has already served in jail.

He was remanded to the Department of Corrections. His release date is April 14, 2013.

After completing his sentence, Litulumar will be placed on probation for three years. He was ordered to pay a \$300 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, plus probation fees.

He was also required to perform 200 hours of community

service and complete anger management counseling.

Litulumar conceded that because of this new conviction, he violated the terms of his probation in two previous criminal cases. He agreed to place those sentences into effect concurrent with the sentence in this case.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Litulumar with assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. He pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon as part of a plead deal.

Wiseman reluctantly accepted the terms and conditions of the plea agreement.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that Litulumar, armed with a machete, had arrived at his mother's house in Koblerville on Oct. 11, 2011, at 12:30am, and approached his mother who was sitting in the garage.

Litulumar asked his mother where her common-law husband, Terwik Ludwig, was so he could cut his neck. The mother went inside the house and told Ludwig that Litulumar was outside looking for him and threatening to behead him with a machete.

Ludwig jumped out of the bedroom window and ran to the KB Market and Laundry to report the incident to the police.

On April 16, 2011 Litulumar and his girlfriend, Gina Bhagchadani, 37, and his mother Margarita were all arrested for allegedly fighting after a drinking session at their house in Koblerville.

On July 5, 2011, police arrested Litulumar and Bhagchadani for child neglect after their 9-year-old son called the police to report that his parents were always drunk and arguing repeatedly. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Mariners urged to exercise caution

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam is warning boaters and beach goers to exercise caution in all waters across Micronesia throughout this weekend. The National Weather Service has issued a small craft advisory for all coastal waters surrounding Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

The small craft advisory will be in effect for all the islands through Sunday evening. Seas are expected to rise to 10 to 12

feet. Winds are also expected to increase in excess of 20 to 25 knots. High seas in combination with high winds will create exceptionally dangerous conditions for small vessels and swimmers.

The National Weather Service recommends mariners operating small vessels should avoid operating in these conditions. Mariners should only travel if necessary and check

the current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway. T

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency.

Report any maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. *(USCG)*

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NOTICE OF MEETING /CELEBRATION

The Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is inviting all party members and interested individuals for a general membership meeting on Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe. The meeting will commence at 10:30AM followed by lunch. In addition, we will celebrate Covenant Day. Activities for children and families will be provided. Please come and join us on this significant occasion.

Thank You
si Gregorio M. Camacho, Chairman

Paid for by the Covenant Party Treasure Emma Villagomez.

Power outage in Garapan tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage for Garapan tomorrow, March 17, from 6:30am to 9:30am.

The areas affected include Garapan areas of The Promenade St., Country House Restaurant, Plumeria Av., Ginger Av., Palm St., Fiesta Resort and Spa, Hyatt Regency, Victoria Hotel to DPS Fire Station, American Memorial Park Amphitheatre and Museum, Industrial Dr., Smiling Cove Marina. Puerto Rico: Shell and Mobil Fuel Farms, Saipan Shipping Co.,

CPA, Kaiser Cement Factory, and Fish and Wildlife office.

The purpose of the outage is to allow the power distribution line crews to work on the electrical primary lines safely as they perform maintenance and repairs on the feeder 2, second partial electrical circuit.

The line crew will replace rusted pole top pins and other deteriorated pole hardware along with replacing a rotted primary power pole on Industrial Drive near the U.S. Army Reserve Fa-

cility. In addition, another crew will be clearing vegetation from the primary lines near the Smiling Cove Marina through the American Memorial Park Grounds.

CUC power division will continue to schedule additional power interruptions over the next few months as they continue performing systems maintenance on other feeder circuits throughout the island.

For more information, Power Division's Gary Camacho at 235-7025 ext. 164/483-1122. (CUC)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Coast Guard, Navy search for missing Guam fisherman

GUAM—Coast Guard and Navy search and rescue crews are joining Guam Fire and Police Department Marine units in searching for a Chuukese man in his 40's to 50's wearing a black shirt and white shorts that was believed to be swept over the reef in the vicinity of Asan Beach this evening.

A family member fishing with the missing man reporting made the initial report. The Coast Guard is requesting that anyone who may have been in the area of Asan Beach this evening or has any information regarding this case to contact the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-355-4824. (PR)

NMC library now open on Saturdays

The Northern Marianas College Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library is now open on Saturdays from 12pm to 4pm. The NMC Library is located in Building O next to the CNMI Archives. The NMC Library is also open Monday through Thursdays from 8am to 6pm, and from 8am to 4pm on Fridays.

Besides borrowing books and videos, NMC

students can access a variety of resources, as well as newspapers and about 50 magazines and journals. The NMC Library also has wireless Internet access, computers, and laptops, as well as printing services for class assignments. Library staff members are available to assist. (NMC)

2 beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Central Repair Shop and Fiesta Resort drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

TES PTSA meeting set

The Tanapag Elementary School will have a PTSA meeting on March 19, at 5:30pm at the school cafeteria. For more information call the main office 664-3425/26/27. (PR)

Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign

March 12 – 18, 2012

LUCK WON'T KEEP YOU OUT OF A JAM
 THIS ST. PATRICK'S DAY.



Department of Public Safety
 For more information call 664-9084/85



TakeCare/FHP joins roster of 2012 MMAC title sponsors

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TakeCare/FHP has joined the roster of title sponsors for the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer, donating \$3,000 for the event that will be held on April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

Staffers of the healthcare company led by clinic supervisor Nora Sablan presented the check donation and the registration fee for Team TakeCare/FHP to MMAC committee members at their clinic in TSL Plaza in Garapan on Wednesday.

This is the fifth consecutive year that TakeCare/FHP is sponsoring the event, including the dinner banquet for cancer survivors on the night of the event. Sablan commended the MMAC committee for their efforts to make the event happen each year.

"As a cancer survivor myself, I'm grateful for all their hard work every year to make the Marianas March Against Cancer event happen," she said. "Considering this is a volunteered event, what they're doing is really a great thing."

Sablan, who is also part of the MMAC survivors committee, urged all cancer survivors to come out and be a part of this year's celebration by calling 235-0994 to 98 to register.

Also attending Wednesday's donation was CCA board member Maggie Camacho, who said that they "greatly appreciate the continued support" of TakeCare/FHP to MMAC.

"Their in-kind and monetary donation allows CCA to be able to assist the cancer population, whether it's the survivors or the caregivers. We hope that we may see more companies like TakeCare/FHP to come out and help combat the disease," she said.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

TakeCare/FHP staff led by clinic supervisor Nora Sablan, standing fourth right, presents the \$3,000 donation to the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves, third right, and other committee members in a ceremony at the TSL Plaza in Garapan on Wednesday.

Catherine Attao-Toves, overall event committee chair, described TakeCare/FHP as "key supporters" of MMAC and this year's sponsorship is "looking really good."

"I'm speechless...Times are hard but our regular sponsors really do care about the community," she said.

Attao-Toves added that luminaries and t-shirts are now available for sale at the CCA office in Gualo Rai.

This year marks the 10th year of the largest signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association. For more information, call 682-0050 or 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.



American Red Cross



Citizen CPR & Disaster Training

Date: Saturday, March 17th

**Time: 8:00AM – 9:00AM (CPR Training)*
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Where: Multi Purpose Center

Fee: CPR Training - \$5 Per Person

Disaster Training - FREE

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Mobil

We're drivers too.

SSHS is NMI's delegate to 'We the People' nationals in DC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 25-member team of Saipan Southern High School was selected by the Public School System as the CNMI's official delegate to the national congressional mock trial competition to be held in Washington, D.C. next month.

The "We the People" program features an intensive curriculum that provides students with comprehensive instruction on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the principles and values they embody. The program is designed to promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a constitutional democracy. Each year, regional and state winners across the nation face each other in the national event, this year slated at George Mason University from April 27 to 30.

SSHS was also the CNMI champion last year, also advancing to the nationals.

During the competition rounds, students demonstrate their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, and public officials.

SSHS principal Jesse Tudela said yesterday that he is confident the team will do its best to represent the Commonwealth once more at the national level.

According to SSHS counselor and trip coordinator Andrew



The Saipan Southern High School team poses for a group photo during a visit at the campus yesterday. The group will represent the CNMI in the national "We the People" congressional mock trial competition slated for April 27th to 30th at Washington, D.C.

Golden, the team will be joined by teacher Gerald Russell and judge-coaches John Anthon Manglona, Deanna Manglona, and Charlotte Sanders. Their goal for the CNMI team: to place in the national top 10.

Don Marshall Davis Cabrera, a senior, believes the event is a good opportunity to showcase

their skills. "We can show [at the national level] that even people from a small island like the CNMI can do big things," he said. This will be Cabrera's first time at the nationals.

Ji Won Lee, also a senior, is excited. Although this is not her first time to compete off-island, she's looking forward to a memorable

experience. Lee is a member of the SSHS Manta Band, which competes in off-island contests, including the New York International Music Festival.

"I just can't believe it! This is my first time to compete without playing my musical instrument, and I am so excited. I'm sure it will be fun and memorable,"

she said.

According to the team's student-coach, Zachary Sablan, who was part of the national team last year, this year's delegation has a lot of potential to win big in the nationals. "I just tell them to keep their cool because the national event is a big professional conversation where judges want to learn from students. So the worst thing they can do is panic. I believe in this team and I won't be surprised if they win because they really have the potential," he added.

Golden said that team members are meeting thrice weekly with their coaches preparing and perfecting their testimonies for the competition.

The CNMI team is composed of Maria Louise Babriela Attero, Rufino Aquino Jr., Angelica Awa-Ao, Akioni Nadine Babauta, Chelsea Marie Bartolo, Van-

essa Rome Bartolo, Yunika Mae Biado, Rachel Nadine Borja, Don Marshall Davis Cabrera, Zyerlishida Camacho, Yoon Jae Chung, Teri-Sue Corpuz, Derick Dela Cruz, Jinky Marie Kintaro, Ji Won Lee, Allysha Hillary Lloren, Edward John Manibusan, Momoko Belle Nishikido, David Kido Paek, Rina Park, Seong Jin Park, Christine Maebelle Roque, Christina Marie Sablan, Mike Aries Vargas, and Keisuke Yoshida.

Since January, the team has been doing fundraisers to meet the financial cost of the group's travel. It was learned that each member was asked to chip in \$900 for the trip. Golden said the team's goal is to raise \$25,000.

PSS "We the People" coordinator Steven Smith said that SSHS will vie for the national title with teams from 50-plus states and territories.



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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to the greatest dad, Abel Ramos Valenzuela, and may you have many more years to come! Enjoy your day. We love you! From your loving wife Lou, children, grandchildren, and most especially your family from Portland, Oregon (Joey, Kate, Joshua, Naomi and JC).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Andrea Nicole C. Mamauag, who celebrated her 10th birthday last Sunday, March 11, at the Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe. Mamauag's actual birthday was March 12.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 7th birthday to Brandie Alexis Matsumoto, who celebrated her special day on Wednesday! Wishing you all the happiness that life can bring. God bless and we love you! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



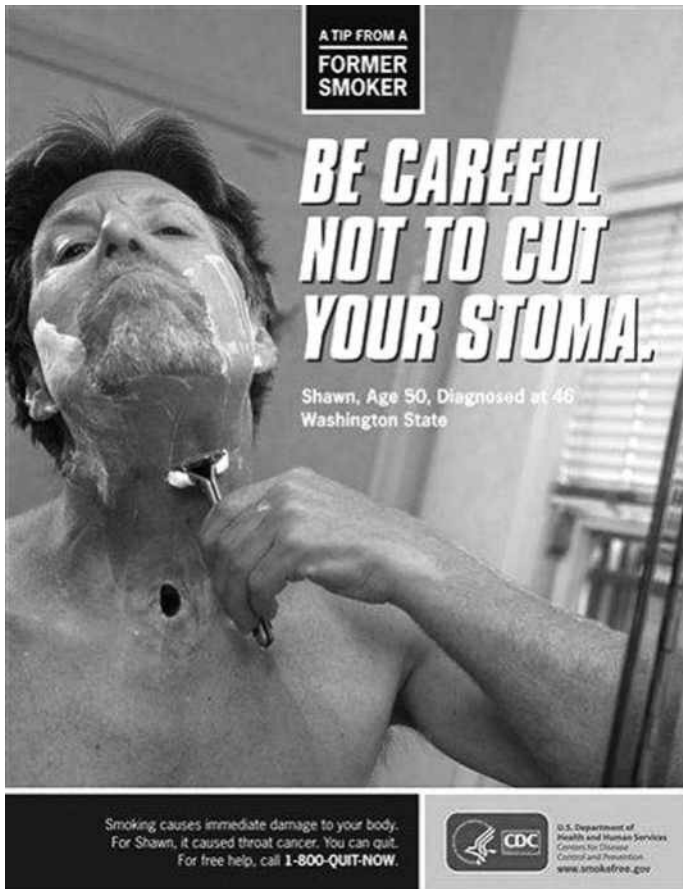
Happy first birthday to Kaeden Jay Marquez Togawa! Wishing you all the world's best on your special day! May God bless you with many more happy and healthy years to come! We love you so much and thank the Lord with your presence every day! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and Aundre.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

CDC launching graphic anti-smoking ad campaign



ATLANTA (AP)—Tobacco taxes and smoking bans haven't budged the U.S. smoking rate in years. Now the government is trying to shock smokers into quitting with a graphic nationwide advertising campaign.

The billboards and print, radio and TV ads show people whose smoking resulted in heart surgery, a tracheotomy, lost limbs or paralysis. The \$54 million campaign is the largest and starkest anti-smoking push by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its first national advertising effort.

The agency is hoping the spots, which begin Monday,

will persuade as many as 50,000 Americans to stop smoking.

"This is incredibly important. It's not every day we release something that will save thousands of lives," CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden said in a telephone interview.

That bold prediction is based on earlier research that found aggressive anti-smoking campaigns using hard-hitting images sometimes led to decreases in smoking. After decades of decline, the U.S. smoking rate has stalled at about 20 percent in recent years.

Advocates say it's important to jolt a weary public that has

been listening to government warnings about the dangers of smoking for nearly 50 years.

"There is an urgent need for this media campaign," Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a statement.

The CDC was set to announce the three-month campaign on Thursday.

One of the print ads features Shawn Wright from Washington state who had a tracheotomy after being diagnosed with head and neck cancer four years ago. The ad shows the 50-year-old shaving, his razor moving down toward a red gaping hole at the

base of his neck that he uses to speak and breathe.

An advertising firm, Arnold Worldwide, found Wright and about a dozen others who developed cancer or other health problems after smoking for the ads.

Federal health agencies have gradually embraced graphic anti-smoking imagery. Last year, the Food and Drug Administration approved nine images to be displayed on cigarette packages. Among them were a man exhaling cigarette smoke through a tracheotomy hole in his throat, and a diseased mouth with what appear to be cancerous lesions.

This image provided on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 by the Centers for Disease Control shows Shawn Wright who had a tracheotomy after being diagnosed with head and neck cancer.

Thieves rolling Tide detergent out of stores

WASHINGTON (AP)—When police in suburban Washington raided the home of a suspected drug dealer last fall, they found the cocaine, all right, but also something unusual on the man's shelves: nearly 20 large bottles of liquid Tide laundry detergent.

It turns out his customers were paying for drugs not with cash but with stolen Tide, police said.

Tide has become a hot commodity among thieves at supermarkets and drugstores in at least some parts of the country.

For a variety of reasons, the detergent in the familiar flame-orange bottle is well-suited for resale on the black market:

Everybody needs laundry detergent, and Tide is the nation's most popular brand. It's expensive, selling for up to \$20 for a large bottle at stores. And it doesn't spoil.

One Safeway supermarket in Prince George's County, Md., was losing thousands of dollars' worth of Tide a week before police made more than two dozen arrests. In West St. Paul, Minn., a man pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$6,000 worth of the stuff from a Walmart and was sentenced to 90 days in jail. Police in Newport News, Va., and other cities around the country have reported a spike in thefts.

US, EU, Japan challenge China over minerals trade

BRUSSELS (AP)—The United States, the European Union and Japan filed complaints Tuesday with the World Trade Organization charging that China is limiting its export of rare earths, minerals that are vital to the production of technology components.

China has a stranglehold on the global supply of 17 rare earth minerals that are essential for making high-tech goods including hybrid cars, weapons, flat-screen TVs, mobile phones, mercury-vapor lights, and camera lenses.

But China has cut its export quotas of these minerals over the past several years to cope

with growing demand at home, though the government also cites environmental concerns as the reason for the restrictions.

U.S. industry officials suggest it is an unfair trade practice, against rules established by the WTO, a group that includes China as a member.

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said China's export quotas and export duties give Chinese companies an unfair competitive advantage, and must be removed.

"These measures hurt our producers and consumers in the EU and across the world," De Gucht said.

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Greetings from

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

GOP fight for delegates stretches to Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (AP)—An upbeat Rick Santorum barreled into Puerto Rico on Wednesday in pursuit of another campaign-bending victory in a Republican presidential race where suddenly no primary is too minor and no delegate is conceded. Mitt Romney put nearly \$1 million into television advertising in Illinois, the next big-state showdown.

"If we keep winning races, eventually people are going to figure out that Gov. Romney is not going to be the nominee," said Santorum, eager to build on Tuesday's unexpected victories in Alabama and Mississippi.

Romney in turn dismissed Santorum as a "lightweight" as far as the economy is concerned.

He also rebutted suggestions that he can't appeal to core conservatives. "You don't win a million more votes than anyone else in this race by just appealing to high-income Americans," he said on Fox News. "Some who are very conservative may not be in my camp, but they will be when I become the nominee, when I face Barack Obama."

Romney travels to Puerto Rico on Friday, after two days in New York fundraising.

But in a reflection of the importance of next week's Illinois primary, aides announced he would make a previously unscheduled campaign stop in the Chicago area en route to San Juan.

Newt Gingrich, despite losing twice in the South, a region he hoped to own in the race, showed no sign of abandoning his fading campaign.

That presumably suited Romney fine. But not so much Santorum, eager for a race in which he is the sole challenger on the right for Romney, the former Massachusetts governor.

The events of the previous 24 hours neatly summarized the most turbulent Republican presidential campaign in a generation.

Santorum's primary victories in Mississippi and Alabama were the product of a well-spring of conservative support that overcame Romney's overwhelming organizational and financial advantages in the race to pick a November opponent for Democrat Obama.

Yet despite his twin defeats in the South, Romney remains the faraway leader in the delegate chase. Incomplete returns showed him actually adding one or two to his advantage because of overnight caucus victories in Hawaii and American Samoa.

That division—headline-grabbing primary victories versus routine accumulation of delegates—emerged as an increasingly significant point of contention as Romney, Santorum and Gingrich selected facts and spun theories designed to put their own hopes in the best light.

Romney's aides point out that he has more than half the delegates picked so far, and he has said he's on track to win the nomination before the party convention opens in August.

"Tuesday's results actually increased Governor Romney's delegate lead, while his opponents only moved closer to their date of mathematical elimination," said a campaign memo written during the day for public circulation.

Santorum's camp outline a strategy that relies on increasing strength in later primaries coupled with outmaneuvering Romney in caucus states where the front-runner showed early strength but delegates have yet to be picked.

"Simply put, time is on our side," the Santorum campaign said in a memo early in the week. The campaign pledged a floor fight at the Republican National Convention over the seating of winner-take-all delegations in Michigan and Florida, both of which Romney won. It also envisioned two or three rounds of convention balloting before a nominee is selected.

But it skipped lightly over Illinois, where the former Pennsylvania senator fell 10 delegates short of a full slate for the March 20 primary.

Gingrich's campaign countered with a memo Tuesday that said Louisiana's primary on March 24 is just the halfway point in the campaign and the former House speaker had succeeded in a goal of blocking "an early Romney nomination." Long gone was an earlier claim that Gingrich would be roughly even with Romney in delegates by April or May.

While the campaigns maneuvered for position, the race was on for primaries in Puerto Rico on Sunday, Illinois on Tuesday and Louisiana on March 24.

Romney's television campaign in Illinois came on top of \$2.4 million that a super PAC supporting him was spending on advertising. Polls show a competitive race in that state, advantage the front-runner.

Santorum hopes to add Louisiana to his list of Southern successes, and he held his Tuesday night victory rally there.



Santorum

Obama, Cameron: Shift in Afghan war role in 2013

WASHINGTON (AP)—De-termined to show momentum in a war marred by setbacks, President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron said for the first time Wednesday that NATO forces would hand over the lead combat role to Afghanistan forces next year as the U.S. and its allies aim to get out by the end of 2014.

The announcement added both clarity and urgency to the path of a war that has fallen into a demoralizing period, rocked by the burnings of Qurans at a U.S. base, deadly protests against Americans and a shooting rampage, alleged against a U.S. soldier, that left 16 Afghan civilians dead.

Yet Obama made clear those incidents, and intensifying political pressure surrounding them, will not lead him to bring American troops home sooner.

He said he still plans to gradually withdraw forces through 2014 as Afghan forces take on more responsibility, cautioning no one should expect "any sudden, additional changes" in the pace of withdrawal.

The trials of war, bloodshed in Syria and a nuclear standoff in Iran dominated questioning at a joint appearance by Obama and Cameron at the White House. By contrast, the personal tone of their visit has been all ease as Obama has lavished attention on his younger ally, from a college basketball tournament game on Tuesday night to the magnolia blossoms of the Rose Garden where their news conference was held. It was all to be capped by a glitzy state dinner on the South Lawn.

The news that NATO forces would shift to a support role next year was a natural fit into the allies' timeline for ending the war by the end of 2014. In fact, it was Obama's defense secretary, Leon Panetta, who

caused a stir more than two months ago by suggesting that NATO allies might shift from a combat role to an advisory role by mid-to-late 2013.

The White House announcement seals that tack more firmly, given the context of recent events and the political weight of coming straight from Obama and Cameron.

The two men lead the nations that have sent the most forces into the fight—and whose electorates have long grown sick of the war.

"We've been there for 10 years, and people get weary," conceded Obama, who could pay a political price as the woes of war creep back into the election-year mindset.

Obama and Cameron offered up what amounts to a plan for the beginning of the end of the war in 2013. The NATO shift to a support role means fewer of its forces would be the ones at the front lines of combat.

Both leaders sought to show steady progress in ensuring Afghanistan would never again be a launching point for terrorism.

The White House discussions follow the weekend killings of the Afghan civilians and the deaths of six British troops last week in a roadside bomb blast—the largest loss of life in a single incident for British forces in Afghanistan since 2006. Cameron insisted "we will not give up on this mission."

"We have to keep reminding ourselves and everybody else why we are there," Cameron said. "It's not some selfish, long-term strategic interest; it's simply that we want Afghanistan to be able to look after its own security with its own security forces so we are safe at home."

The war in Afghanistan began in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on America.

The United States has roughly 90,000 troops in Afghanistan. Obama plans to drop that number to 68,000 by late September but has offered no specific withdrawal plan after that. Britain has about 9,500 troops in Afghanistan and plans to shrink that contingent to 9,000 by the end of this year.

Both leaders had strong words on Syria, with Obama offering a more candid sense of the consequences of military intervention. The Syrian government of President Bashar Assad is accused of killing some 7,500 people during a yearlong uprising, and the U.S., Britain and other allies have been stymied by Russia and China in finding a diplomatic world response.

Cameron said the horrible images out of Syria "shouldn't be allowed to stand in our world." He and Obama stood by a strategy of political and financial pressure until Assad goes.

Pressed on the use of force, Obama said: "Our military plans for everything." But he warned of an international response that could lead to civil war and more deaths.

"When we see what's happening on television, you know, our natural instinct is to act," Obama said. "One of the things that I think both of us have learned ... is that it's very important for us to make sure that we have thought through all of our actions before we take those steps."

Obama also flashed increasing impatience with Iran over its disputed nuclear program. The West fears Iran is pursuing a bomb, which Iran denies. The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China plan another round of talks with Iran, but Obama openly doubted that "Iran will walk through this door that we're offering them."

He added: "This window for solving this issue diplomatically is shrinking."

Obama, 50, and Cameron, 45, appeared to be fast friends as they reveled in a remarkably warm and sunny March day at the White House. The night after Obama treated Cameron to a trip on Air Force One and a basketball game in Ohio, Cam-

eron and his wife, Samantha, were welcomed to the White House to the sounds of military bands and cheering children.

The president and prime minister traded jokes about American and British sports, recalled their fun together last year in London, gave each gifts and even found levity in the fact that British forces burned down the White House nearly 200 years ago.

"They really lit up the place," Obama said. "But we moved on."

Cameron, delighting a crowd of thousands on the White House grounds, responded: "My ancestors tried to burn this place down. I can see you've got the place a little better defended today."

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LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, where 747 Dining & Bar is situated

- AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
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 - Common waste container
 - Furnished unit w/ balcony
 - Free moving-service
 - Laundry facility
 - On-site maintenance
 - Broad parking space (front area and backside)
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AVAILABLE UNITS:
2-Bedroom and 3-Bedroom
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COMMERCIAL SPACE:
REG PRICE - ~~\$800.00~~ **NOW \$500.00 ~**
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LOCATION: GARAPAN Middle Road, where Pacific Quick Print is situated
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GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM



ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN



SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT



PASTEL INN APARTMENT



YOUNGS BUILDING

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

1-BEDROOM : REG PRICE - ~~\$500.00~~ **NOW \$400.00 ~**
(Power and Water EXCLUDED)

LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar

- AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
 - Back-up generator
 - Common waste container
 - Furnished unit w/ balcony
 - Free moving-service
 - Laundry facility
 - On-site maintenance
 - Parking space

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas baby missing for 8 years found, will go home

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A Texas infant who vanished eight years ago will be reunited with his mother after police arrested his former baby sitter who is accused of kidnapping him, authorities said Wednesday. Krystle Rochelle Tanner, 26, remained jailed without bond in San Augustine, about 200 miles southeast of Fort Worth. She was arrested on a kidnapping charge Monday. The boy's mother, Auboni Champion-Morin, told Houston television station KPRC that she may be reunited with her son later this week. Authorities said she must first undergo a DNA test, even though they're sure of his identity. "I want to hold him in my arms and let him know who I am," said Champion-Morin, who lives in Houston. "I hope he can feel the same thing I feel for him."

Gunman kills 1, wounds 3 outside Texas courthouse

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP)—A man opened fire Wednesday outside a Texas courthouse where he was on trial in a family dispute, killing an elderly woman and wounding three other people, including a daughter he ran over with a pickup truck as he tried to escape, authorities said. Bartholomew Granger, 41, was being held at a jail without bail after being treated at a hospital following his arrest on a murder charge, police said. Granger was outside the Jefferson County Courthouse in Beaumont before the continuation of his trial, grabbed a gun from his truck and began shooting, authorities said. The woman was fatally struck as she tried to run into the courthouse, while Granger's daughter and another bystander fell to the ground.

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Asia

Accused US soldier flown out of Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The American soldier accused of shooting 16 Afghan villagers in a pre-dawn killing spree was flown out of Afghanistan on Wednesday to an undisclosed location, even as many Afghans called for him to face justice in their country.

Afghan government officials did not immediately respond to calls for comment on the late-night announcement. The U.S. military said the transfer did not preclude the possibility of trying the case in Afghanistan, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has said the soldier could receive capital punishment if convicted.

Many fear a misstep by the U.S. military in handling the case could ignite a firestorm in Afghanistan that would shatter already tense relations between the two countries. The alliance appeared near the breaking point last month when the burning of Qurans in a garbage pit at a U.S. base sparked protests and retaliatory attacks that killed more than 30 people, including six U.S. soldiers.

In recent days the two nations made headway toward an agreement governing a long-term American presence here, but the massacre in Kandahar province on Sunday has called all such negotiations into question.

Afghan lawmakers have demanded that the soldier be publicly tried in Afghanistan to show that he was being brought to justice, calling on President Hamid Karzai to suspend all talks with the U.S. until that happens.

The U.S. staff sergeant, who has not been named or charged, allegedly slipped out of his small base in southern Afghanistan before dawn, crept into three houses and shot men, women and children at close range then burned some of the bodies. By sunrise, there were 16 corpses.

The soldier was held by the U.S. military in Kandahar until Wednesday evening, when he was flown out of Afghanistan to Kuwait “based on a legal recommendation,” said Navy Capt. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman.

“We do not have appropriate detention facilities in Afghanistan,” Kirby said, explaining that he was referring to a facility for a U.S. service member “in this kind of case.”

The soldier was transported aboard a U.S. military aircraft to a “pretrial confinement facility” in another country, a U.S. military official said, without saying where.

116 dead, more missing in Bangladesh ferry sinking

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—The death toll in this week’s ferry disaster rose to 116 on Thursday when villagers found four more bodies floating in the water, authorities said.

The decomposing bodies surfaced near the scene of the accident hours after the double-deck ferry was salvaged and the rescue operation was called off, local police chief Mohammad Shahabuddin Khan said. Rescuers recovered 112 bodies from inside the sunken boat Tuesday and Wednesday.

The ferry carrying about 200 people collided with a cargo boat and sank early Tuesday, sending scores of people into the Meghna River, just south of Dhaka. Khan said about 35 survivors were plucked from the water, while local media reported that another 40 managed to swim to shore.

Local media said dozens of people were still missing.

Hundreds of anxious people, many of them weeping, gathered near the scene of the accident to look for their loved ones. Some were angry, saying they blamed local authorities for the slow pace of the rescue operation.

Parul, who goes by one name, said she had been waiting at the shore since Tuesday night for news of her newly married brother, who was returning on the ferry with 16 others from his wedding party.

She said only four of the 17 had apparently survived. Two bodies had been recovered, but the bridegroom and others were still missing.

“Bring my brother back. Give them all back,” Parul wailed as she beat her chest. “I want to see their faces. Please take me to them.”

Rescue workers and divers called off the search late Wednesday after raising the wreckage, but police planned to stay in the area.

“There are no more bodies inside the ferry but police will remain deployed to check if there are any more bodies around,” Khan said.

tsunami. Some communities along the northern Pacific coast advised residents to evacuate coastal homes. A swelling of 20 centimeters (8 inches) was observed in water at the port of Hachinohe in Aomori about an hour after the tremor, with smaller changes seen elsewhere. The Meteorological Agency lifted all tsunami advisories within about 90 minutes.

NKorea’s Kim commands military live-fire drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean state media is reporting that new leader Kim Jong Un commanded live-fire drills involving all three branches of the military as he bolsters his credentials as commander in chief. The official Korean Central News Agency reported Thursday that Kim oversaw the combined drills in the presence of top military and political advisers. It’s a high-profile military appearance for Kim, who took over as leader following father Kim Jong Il’s death in December. Kim Jong Un has made a series of visits to military bases in recent weeks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tibetan monk self-immolates in western China

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan monk set himself on fire in western China Wednesday, an overseas activist group and a Chinese state news agency reported, the latest self-immolation by Tibetans over the suppression of their religion and culture. Jamyang Palden burned himself in Tongren, a monastery town in Qinghai province, and survived after security forces put out the blaze, the official Xinhua News Agency and London-based Free Tibet said. More than two dozen Tibetans have set themselves on fire in China over the last year to protest the suppression of their religion and culture and call for the Dalai Lama’s return.

Strong quakes rattle Japan, but cause no damage

TOKYO (AP)—A series of earthquakes rattled Tokyo and northeastern Japan on Wednesday evening but caused no apparent damage or injury in the same region hit by last year’s devastating tsunami. The strongest was a magnitude 6.8 that struck off Hokkaido island and generated a small

Notice of Public Meeting for Draft EA

The CNMI Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Office/Office of the Governor has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting and conceptual design of a solid waste transfer station on the island of Tinian. A public meeting to discuss the report will be held on **Friday, March 30, 2012 at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** We encourage the public to attend this meeting and to provide oral and/or written comments on specific issues for consideration in the Final EA. Copies of the Draft EA will be available at the Tinian Public Library on Tinian and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saipan on March 19, 2012. Written comments may also be mailed to the address below and should be postmarked by April 20, 2012:

Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Inc.
Attention: Tinian Transfer Station
238 E. Marine Corps Drive,
Suite 201 Diamond Plaza
Hagatna, Guam 96910

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AUCTION NOTICES

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	003 D 16	ADETTA ST., GARAPAN	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 90,000.00
LOT NO.:	011 G 308	CHOPAK DRIVE, KAGMAN III	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 43,619.36
LOT NO.:	010 K 05	MAGICIENNE BAY AVE., DAN DAN	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 42,219.36
LOT NO.:	21899-2	PILA DRIVE SADOQ TASI	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 32,419.36
LOT NO.:	002 G 263	ATES DRIVE KAGMAN II	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 57,619.36
LOT NO.:	011 G 842	GAGU STR. KAGMAN	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 61,619.36
LOT NO.:	001 C 57	MORTAR LANE SAN ROQUE	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 68,230.00
LOT NO.:	003 B 16	CHAMOLINAN DRIVE, TANAPAG	MINIMUM BID :	\$ 48,519.36

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC’s conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on April 17, 2012, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be \$(please see above).
- Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
- Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier’s check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
- Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.
- Lease with Option to Purchase. NMHC gives notice that it will also consider bids or offers to lease the property, subject to the following additional terms and conditions:
 - The Lease Price bid shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
 - An up-front payment of ten percent (10%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier’s check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).
 - The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at six percent (6%) per annum.
 - Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber NMHC’s rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
 - Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be thirty (30) years.
 - A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
 - No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of NMHC.
 - Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
 - Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
 - Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of NMHC.
 - Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
 - Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (A) payment in full of the Lease Price; (B) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (C) payment of \$100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.
 - In the event of competing lease bids, greater weight will be given to the leasehold offer with the better price, shorter term and larger monthly payments.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Acting Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

World

Syrian rebels lack guns, money after key defeats

BEIRUT (AP)—Two significant defeats at the hands of Syrian government troops have exposed the limitations of the country’s rebel forces: They are low on cash, running out of weapons and facing a fiercely loyal military that will fight to the death.

Insisting that their drive to oust President Bashar Assad by force remains strong, the Free Syrian Army says the arms shortage is the main obstacle.

“Send us money, we’re desperate. Send us weapons,” Ah-

mad Kassem, who coordinates military operations for the FSA, told The Associated Press in an interview. “We don’t need fighters. We have excess men who can fight, but we need weapons to protect our land and honor.”

In the past year, the rebels briefly seized small amounts of territory, most recently in the Baba Amr district of Homs and the city of Idlib in northern Syria.

After nearly four weeks of relentless shelling, the government reclaimed Baba Amr on

March 1 following an assault that killed hundreds of people and transformed the neighborhood into a symbol of the uprising. The humanitarian situation in Baba Amr, part of the third-largest city in Syria, remains catastrophic for civilians.

Government forces next turned their guns on Idlib, another bastion of opposition support. On Tuesday, government forces took control of the city in a three-day operation—significantly shorter but still bloody.

The Free Syrian Army has

Dissidents occupy Cuba church, seek papal audience

HAVANA (AP)—Thirteen Cuban dissidents have holed up in a Roman Catholic church in Havana to press for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI when he visits in two weeks, saying they want to air their grievances about human rights on the island.

Some other dissidents and a church spokesman denounced the move, which was apparently meant to be part of coordinated protests at churches across the island that were later abandoned.

The Church of Charity of Cobre in teeming Central Havana was semi-shuttered Wednesday and only pilgrims visiting an image of the Virgin

of Charity of Cobre, Cuba’s patron, were permitted inside. There was no sign of police, and activity appeared normal on surrounding streets.

The dissidents were in an area that is off-limits to worshippers, said dissident William Cepera. He said he spoke with them through a window that was later closed.

“They entered the church last night and stayed. They will not budge from there,” he said.

Cepera added that he and a colleague from their small opposition group, the Nov. 30 Democratic Party, tried to join the group but were not allowed in.

“We would like to talk with

the pope and tell him that the government of Fidel and Raul (Castro) has released only some prisoners, but other political prisoners remain,” he said.

Church spokesman Orlando Marquez said the protest was disrespectful to the pope, as well as to ordinary Catholics hoping to visit the church to pray.

“Nobody has the right to turn temples into political trenches,” he wrote in a forcefully worded statement. “Nobody has the right to disturb the celebratory spirit of faithful Cubans and many other citizens who look with jubilation and hope toward the visit of the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, to Cuba.”

emerged as the most potent armed force fighting Assad. It

is highly decentralized, with its leaders in the relative safety of neighboring countries. The rebels have not come close to car-

ving out a zone akin to Benghazi in eastern Libya, the center of the successful uprising against Moammar Gadhafi last year.

Swiss bus crash kills 28, including 22 children

SIERRE, Switzerland (AP)—A tour bus carrying schoolchildren home from a class trip slammed head-on into a tunnel wall in the Swiss Alps, killing 22 Belgian students and six adults and instantly changing a joyous skiing vacation into a tragedy spanning two European nations.

As authorities tried Wednesday to piece together what happened, parents, classmates and rescue workers struggled to grasp the awful turn of events. Only days earlier, the children had updated a lively

blog about the highlights of their adventure: ravioli and meatball dinners, cable-car rides and sing-a-longs.

Police said the bus was not speeding and everyone aboard had been wearing seat belts when it crashed late Tuesday inside the 2.5-kilometer (1.5-mile) Tunnel de Geronde on a highway near the southern town of Sierre, a gateway to the Val d’Anniviers tourist region. No other vehicles were involved.

Belgian authorities flew anxious parents and relatives to the site and called for a day of

mourning. The Swiss parliament held a minute of silence for the victims.

Investigators were still trying to determine how a modern bus, a rested driver and a seemingly safe tunnel could produce one of the deadliest highway crashes in Swiss history.

Olivier Elsig, prosecutor for the Swiss state of Valais, said officials were looking at three possible causes—a technical problem with the bus, a health problem with the driver or human error. He said an autopsy would be performed on the driver.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-002-09)” and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of two (2) groups: **Project 1** is existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications, and **Project 2** is a Design-Build of Restroom 1 in accordance with the Design/Build Concept Plans and Specifications. Bidders are reminded that the Construction Management (CM) team is not available for design services for Project 2.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder’s Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI
Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

March 6, 2012
Date



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ROTA BIRD SANCTUARY ROAD PAVING
ITB12-GOV-043

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, “Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located on Middle Road, Garapan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, amount to be determined is required for a set of the project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospective bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

There will be a Pre-bid conference for this project on Monday, March 26, 2012, 2:00 p.m., Saipan local time at the Governor’s Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions regarding the Invitation to Bid (ITB) must be address and submit in writing to Mr. Roy P. Reyes, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB12-GOV-043-Rota Bird Sanctuary Road Paving**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, April 3, 2012 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 3, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 10, 2012. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 12, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened and read at 11:00 a.m. ChST, April 3, 2012.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred (300) calendar days. The daily liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by three hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid in the best interests of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Mom gives birth on sidewalk outside Minn. hospital
MAPLE GROVE, Minn. (AP)—Elissa Simonson didn’t quite make it to a hospital for the birth of her third child. But, she was very close. Simonson and her husband, Josh, knew the birth of their baby was imminent as they walked up the sidewalk to Maple Grove Hospital, Minn., on Tuesday. But as they neared the entrance, Elissa realized she couldn’t make it inside. Josh says his wife got down on her knees next to a bench as he bolted into the hospital to find help. By the time her husband ran back outside with medical personnel, Elissa had given birth, behind the bench. Mother and baby were rushed inside. KARE-TV reports both are doing well. McKenna Rose weighed in at just over 5 pounds.

Lucky girl: 2-year-old picks NYC mom’s \$1M ticket
NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City toddler with the right touch

has made her family \$1 million richer. Afsheen Ahsan, of Queens, credits her 2-year-old daughter, Anaya Hussain, for picking her New York Poker instant scratch-off ticket. Ahsan says the toddler reached out and touched the ticket on Jan. 30 while they were at the Top Convenience store in Brooklyn. She told the *Daily News* that she took that as a sign and bought the ticket. Ahsan will receive \$31,152 a year until 2031. She says she wants to start a business, and also plans a vacation.


Iowa Republican mistakenly pitches Democrats
ALBIA, Iowa (AP)—A Republican congressional candidate says he’s learned to double check his campaign schedule after he mistakenly spoke at a Democratic convention in Iowa. Dan Dolan told the *Quad-City Times* he arrived early Saturday at the county courthouse in Albia for a Republican convention. He says his staffer asked the crowd if he could speak, and when he

finished, “a guy raises his hand and says, ‘I think you want to talk to the Republicans.’” Turns out, Democrats were meeting in the same place two hours before the Republican event was to start. Dolan, of Muscatine, Iowa, says everyone was nice about the mix-up, but he now asks “Is this the Republican convention?” before he starts talking.


Arkansas teen texts prank to police detective
ROGERS, Ark. (AP)—A northwest Arkansas teenager thought it would be funny to text a random phone number saying she hid a body, but the joke backfired. Of all the local phone numbers she could have chosen, the 15-year-old Rogers girl picked one that belonged to a police detective. Police found the girl’s address by tracing her cellphone number. The prank? To text: “I hid the body ... Now what?” to a random phone number. The teen said she got the idea for the prank from a posting on the website Pinterest. Police didn’t find the prank funny and say it tied up some of the department’s resources. The girl was released with a warning.

NJ’s capital to make emergency toilet paper buy
TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Officials in New Jersey’s capital say they’ve resolved a fight over toilet paper. Trenton’s *The Times* newspaper reports Mayor Tony Mack’s administration will move forward with an emergency purchase of toilet paper and paper towels. Supplies of both dwindled in city buildings while the administration and City Council quarreled over a contract to resupply city government. The stalemate began last September. The council twice rejected a \$42,000 contract for a year’s supply of paper products because members raised concerns about a high unit price for hot-drink cups. Before the \$16,000 emergency contract was announced Tuesday, officials said paper towel and toilet paper dispensers were nearly depleted in senior citizen centers, police headquarters, the fire department and other city offices.

Kan. House squashes bid to make Toto breed top dog
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—There may be no place like home, but don’t tell Toto. A Kansas House committee squashed a bid Monday to make the cairn terrier, a breed perhaps best known as that of Dorothy’s canine sidekick in “The Wizard of Oz,” the state’s official dog. Democratic state Rep. Ed Trimmer told the *Wichita Eagle* he plans to reintroduce the bill next year. And Brenda Moore, a South Central Kansas Kennel Club official who first proposed the idea, says she plans to drum up public support for it this summer. The animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals opposed the measure, saying it believes it would cause Kansas puppy mills to “churn out litter after litter of the breed” and lead to fewer adoptions from animal shelters.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

Anthony Francis A. Benavente and Arlene Tina Lee Benavente (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 11, 2006, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on April 12, 2006, under Document No. 06-895 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 1155, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON DLS CHECK NO. 011 G. 23, DATED DECEMBER 09, 1993, RECORDED AT THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE AS FILE NO. 96-2566 ON OCTOBER 10, 1996 THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **April 17, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$49,007.87**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.


Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$49,007.87** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Acting Corporate Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

Jose L. Castro and Margarita J. Castro (collectively "Trustor"), on or about December 22, 1980, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on December 22, 1980, under Document No. 11179 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NUMBER 017 D 27, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 900 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 4842, ON THE 11TH DAY OF September, 1975.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on November 3, 2011. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **April 17, 2012**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **\$51,076.14**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **April 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.** **All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than April 16, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

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Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **\$51,076.14** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.


The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the lease price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All lease payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer/lessee of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer/lessee's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.

Dated this 14th day of March, 2012.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Acting Corporate Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Revised Re-Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 12-001 Opening Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

Financial Accounts Specialist

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing paraprofessional financial related duties. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional financial support activities to include: researches, collects, analyzes, and reconciles billing information from disputed accounts. Compiles documents to prepare billing adjustments and completes documents to support adjustments. Prepares written responses to customers of approved dispute resolutions. Initiates telephone contact and maintains proper follow up with customers. Tracks and reviews pending service orders for filed investigations. Assists in the preparation of variety of reports to and from internal departments that will assist in effectively resolving customer disputes in a timely manner. Establishes and maintains positive interactions with internal departments to resolve customer disputes timely. Assists in the preparation and reviews of required documents for Administrative Hearings. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.


SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$25,296.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

POSITIONS: Four (4)


CONTRACT: Not contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate's Degree in Accounting or related field and three years of progressively responsible experience in the area assigned. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Administrative Procedures; Customer service principles and other applicable laws, rules, regulations; Basic mathematics; Telephone etiquette; Office policies and procedures. Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local Laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting/financial principles; Recording analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting of transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 12-007 Opening Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, March 19, 2012

Laboratory Technician

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Assists or collects field samples at various stations and checkpoints for water and wastewater operations. Assists or performs routine analysis on samples to ensure samples meet chemistry or microbiological parameters as determined by the EPA. Assists or Mixes media for chemistry titration analysis; calculates chemical reagent standardizations for chemical titration results. Cleans laboratory to include washing glassware and other laboratory materials. Assists in maintaining records of laboratory operations. Responds to customer or complaints from the general public. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Water Laboratory, SAIPAN.


SALARY: \$15,139.00 to \$23,465.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

POSITIONS: One (1)


CONTRACT: Not contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma, GED or ABE. Higher education and related work experience preferred. Knowledge of: Mathematics; Basic knowledge of chemicals; Safety procedures. Skills in: Collecting samples; Performing routine analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 12-008 Opening Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, March 26, 2012

Meter Technician

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbents duties and responsibilities are as follows: Installs or assists install customer meters to ensure billing of services received. Performs or assists in meter testing; replaces damaged meters with new meters. Performs or assists in disconnections and reconnections of services; disconnects tampered accounts. Performs verifications to ensure meters are functioning properly. Delivers delinquency notices to customers with no addresses. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN.

SALARY: \$23,200.00 to \$27,262.00 per annum, un-classified, un-graded.

POSITIONS: Four (4)

CONTRACT: Not contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma, GED or ABE and three years of work experience, preferably with meter reading or metering experience. Knowledge of: Meters; Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Installing and replacing meters; Disconnecting and reconnecting meters; Identifying illegal connections; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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Science & Technology

First-rate surround sound for an affordable price

By **DON LINDICH**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q. I am looking to put surround sound in my apartment living room, which is perhaps 12 feet by 16 feet in size. I have the TV and Blu-ray already. What would you recommend for around \$1,000?—M.W., South Bend, Ind.

A. This is an easy one to answer since I recently did this in one of my bedrooms. You can get extremely good sound for \$1,000 in a compact, high quality system using components from top-name brands. In fact, when you hear it the sound is likely to be a lot better than you were expecting!

I am going to recommend exactly what I bought for myself. To power the system I recommend the \$399 Marantz NR1402 A/V receiver, which I have praised recently for its excellent sound and ease of setup and use.

Connect the receiver to the new 5.1-channel Definitive Technology ProCinema 400 home theater speaker system, which sells for \$599 complete with 8-inch powered subwoofer. This is another one of those products that makes me want to stand up and cheer. It checks all the right boxes: great sound, a top-brand name, an affordable price, high-quality construction and innovative engineering that produces notably superior results. I hate to say it and pos-

sibly hurt Definitive's feelings, but I think the ProCinema 400 sounds better than some of their more expensive systems of a few years ago.

The ProCinema 400 satellites are very small and have sturdy snap-off bases that can be removed if you wall mount the speakers. Though tiny, the satellites have a radiator on top of the cabinet that allows them to produce more bass than other speakers of the same size. The extra bit of bass from the radiator keeps the satellites from sounding thin or weak. The radiator is ribbed for stiffness and firmly sprung with a rubber surround. I get to handle a lot of speakers year after year and it is obvious a lot of precise, thoughtful engineering went into the ProCinema 400 satellites. Though they don't have the bass "oomph" of larger bookshelf speakers, these satellites still satisfy.

The sonic performance of the ProCinema 400 system greatly exceeded my expectations, which were pretty high to begin with given Definitive Technology's reputation. The ProCinema 400 satellites sound pure and clean without any hint of sterility, with precise, richly rendered tone that makes you forget you are listening to speakers at all. They effortlessly fill the room with sound, and the clarity and definition makes surround effects even more enveloping, cohe-

sive and convincing. I gave the speakers a real workout with the "Avatar" Blu-ray and there wasn't a hint of strain. At one point I felt like I was soaring through the skies of Pandora along with the characters on-screen, and it was at that moment I thought, "Wow, this is something my readers would really enjoy in their own homes."

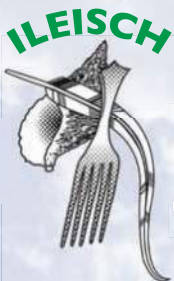
The only caveat to this system is if you put it in a much larger room it might start sounding thin, given the 8-inch sub and small satellites. In rooms the size of your living room or a bit larger, the Marantz NR1402

and Definitive ProCinema 400 speakers will provide a first-rate home theater experience.

Definitive Technology's web address is www.definitivetech.com.

Contact Don Lindich at www.soundadviceblog.com and use the "submit question" link on that site.

Definitive Technology ProCinema 400 Home Theater Speaker System sells for \$599 complete with 8-inch powered subwoofer.
DEFINITIVE TECHNOLOGY/MCT



IN LOVING MEMORY OF **Jose Isaias Lairopi Itibus** also known as Ping

Was called to join his Creator on Monday, March 12, 2012 at the age 56

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Enrique Mulemar Itibus
Father-In-Law: †Vicente Blas Pangelinan
Mother-In-Law: †Isabel CH. Pangelinan
Brother: †Henry L. Itibus
Sisters: †Gloria L. Itibus, Maria Reinanda L. Itibus
Sister-In-Law: †Felisa S. Pangelinan
Brother-In-Law: †Juan CH. Pangelinan, †Lorenzo CH. Pangelinan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: Concepcion Lairopi Itibus
Wife: Juanita Pangelinan Itibus
Children: Lorenza Ann I. & Pedro Romolor (Jose Isaias, Sidro Lorenzo, Ricky Misael, Jonita Isabel)
Ricky Vincent P. Itibus

Brothers/Sisters/Nephews/Nieces:

Angelica L. Itibus - Clarence I. Tagabuel & Child, Arlene (Biden) Jim & Children, Gracella (Alup) Macaranas & Children, John (Michelle) Tagabuel & Children, Plasio Jr. (Diane) Tagabuel & Children.
Lourdes I. (Wilber) Ngotel- Enrique I. Ngotel, Pedro (Sylvia) Ngotel & Children, Willy Andrew I. Ngotel, Maria Remedio I. Ngotel, Connilene I. Ngotel, Paseva I. Ngotel
Felicidad I. (Benjamin) Terry- Dorsian I. Terry, Vincent James I. Terry, DePaul A. Itibus
Encarnacion L. Itibus
Henry L. (Leslie) Itibus- Erique C. Itibus, Henry C. Itibus, Jonovan C. Itibus
Raymond L. (Arlene) Itibus- Gwendolynn F. Itibus, Enrique F. Itibus, Jacob F. Itibus
Henry (Rose) Ilo- Milelani C. Ilo, Harland C. Ilo, Raymond C. Ilo, Roshen C. Ilo
Gloria I. (Nick, Jr.) Ramon- Frannie I. Ramon
James L. (Jennifer) Itibus- Jamie A. Itibus, Raymond A. Itibus, Alenda Glo A. Itibus
George (Camita) Ilo- Tito S. Ilo, Troy S. Ilo

Brothers/Sisters-In-Law:

Felicita H. Pangelinan & Children
Jose CH./ Ofelia Pangelinan & Children
Vicente CH. Pangelinan Jr. & Children
Trinidad P./ Jesus Crisostimo & Children
Rosalina P./ Roman N. Santos & Children
Francisco CH./ Maria Pangelinan & Children
Magdalena P./ Mark Quitugua & Children

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended families and friends.

Nightly rosary is being offered at 7:30 pm at his residence in Koblerville. His remains will be escorted from Commonwealth Health Center to his residence in Koblerville on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:30 am for final viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 10:00 am at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment service will follow at the Veterans Cemetery.

Ghilisooow Yan Dangkulo na Si Yuus Maase ginen i asagua-ña as Juanita, famaguon-ña, famaguon-famaguon-ña yan i Familia



Malware-free days may be over for Apple

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Apple has long advertised that its computers are not subject to virus attacks. But now that more of the company's products are being sold, will Apple computers be subject to such attacks? Does one now need virus protection?—Robert Opheim, Plymouth, Minn.

ANSWER: I think so, although some may disagree.

Apple computers are attacked far less often than Windows computers. In the past, that was because Apple's Macintosh had such a small share of the personal computer market. Malware writers passed it by in favor of Windows PCs, which were more plentiful and thus a more attractive target.

But that's starting to change because Apple is selling huge numbers of iPads and, to a lesser extent, more Macs.

You can find security programs for the Macintosh at <http://www.tinyurl.com/6mmynxz>. So far there hasn't been a big push for iPad

security software. Apple discusses security at <http://www.tinyurl.com/84gzxqa>.

Q: I read your column about adding Greek symbols to a PC keyboard. But, after adding a language such as Spanish or French, how do I know which keys correspond to which letters? Do I need to buy keyboard overlays?—Mike Hacker, Miami

A: You can usually find printable diagrams of standard foreign language keyboards by searching Google Images for terms such as "French keyboard."

But for languages such as ancient Greek, there is no standard keyboard, so you'll need to use the diagrams in Windows, which unfortunately can't be printed. To find them in Windows 7, go to Start, type "Keyboard Language" in search box and choose "Change keyboards or other input methods." Click "Change Keyboards," then click "Add" to install a second language. Highlight the language with your mouse and click "properties" on the right to see the keyboard diagram.



Life & Style

Clooney uses star power to spotlight Sudan crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—George Clooney used his Hollywood celebrity to draw attention Wednesday to the humanitarian crisis in the volatile border between Sudan and South Sudan, offering a firsthand account of the suffering as thousands forced to take refuge in caves because of daily aerial bombardments.

"What you see is a constant drip of fear," the actor and human rights activist told the packed room of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as his every move was accompanied by the incessant sound of camera shutters clicking.

Just back from an eight-day trip to the region, Clooney described a secret, six-hour trip across the border to the Nuba Mountains, rocket attacks, death and destruction. He recalled how a 9-year-old boy had his hands blown off.

Teamed with John Prendergast, co-founder of the advocacy group the Enough Project, Clooney made a film that captured the images of crimes against humanity.

The four-minute video on

two large screens showed refugees in caves, that 9-year-old boy with bloody arms and a woman marked by her wounds. Clooney was the guide throughout, and in the final image, he stood above what appeared to be a dead man splayed on the ground.

"How many more bodies until the Nuba Mountains become the next Darfur?" asked the video, which was released online.

More than two decades of fighting in the region gave way last year to an agreement to create the world's newest country, South Sudan. It seceded from Sudan last July amid hopes that have deteriorated into border clashes, deadly fighting and a standoff on oil.

Clooney said civilians who have farmed the fields are unable to work for fear of bombs dropping from military planes. Sudan has refused to allow aid agencies into the region. Nancy Lindborg, an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development, told the committee that 250,000 people are on the brink of a famine with the

upcoming rainy season.

"These are not the cave people of the Nuba Mountains," Clooney said in an interview with a few reporters before his testimony. "People farm this land. They're hiding in these caves because they're attacked on a daily basis. The Geneva Convention calls that war crimes."

Sudan President Omar al-Bashir is wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court for killings and rapes committed in Darfur. Clooney referred to Bashir and others as war criminals.

Darfur has been in turmoil since 2003, when ethnic African rebels accusing the Arab-dominated Sudanese government of discrimination took up arms against it. The Khartoum government is accused of retaliating by unleashing Arab militias on civilians—a charge the government denies. The U.N. estimates 300,000 people have died and 2.7 million have been displaced.

The committee chairman, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., acknowledged that Americans' attention is often diverted by other crises around the world, but resolving the issues in the Sudan region is critical.

"Make no mistake: It is the leaders in Khartoum and Juba (South Sudan's capital) who must choose between a future of conflict and poverty or a future of security and prosperity. But we must not abdicate the important role the United States can play in helping to nurture that process just as we helped midwife the birth of this new nation," Kerry said.

Clooney, who called himself the "son of a newsman," said he understood the competition from other major stories such

as the Arab Spring and jobs, but argued that the Sudan conflict should matter to Americans because of its affect on the price of gas at the pump.

Oil-rich South Sudan and Sudan, the keeper of the pipelines, have been at odds over oil and profits. Exports have stopped, putting pressure on oil prices worldwide. China receives about 6 percent of its oil from Sudan, and with that source shut off, must go elsewhere to buy oil.

"So we actually have a fi-

nancial interest in this working out," Clooney told reporters.

Widely praised by Republicans and Democrats on the committee for his activist work, Clooney suggested that the Senate back tougher penalties similar to legislation sponsored by Reps. Frank Wolf, R-Va., and Jim McGovern, D-Mass., in the House, send a special envoy to China to seek their help with the Sudan dispute and freeze the financial assets of the Sudanese leaders to prevent them from buying weapons.

Michelle Obama wears Marchesa to state dinner

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Obama chose an off-the-shoulder Marchesa gown for her duties Wednesday night as hostess at a White House state dinner honoring the British prime minister and his wife, David and Samantha Cameron.

It was a deep shade of teal in a draped, column silhouette.

The designer of the gown, Georgina Chapman, and her husband, movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, were guests at the affair, but they didn't know Mrs. Obama was wearing one of Chapman's designs when they arrived.

"I'm knocked out!" Weinstein said.

Chapman, not surprisingly, also wore Marchesa, which has made its name on Hollywood red carpets. Hers was a draped blue and gray gown with a sheer overlay, and covered in crystal embroidery.

Mrs. Cameron seemed to get the memo to wear blue too: Her sparkly gown by London-based designer Alessandra Rich featured lace details, a high neck, half sleeves and a belted waist.



AP
President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama arrive to welcome Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and his wife Samantha Cameron to the White House prior to a State Dinner, Wednesday, March 14, 2012, in Washington.

She had on high black heels from the British retailer Next.

There's great interest in what Mrs. Obama wears to big events like this because she's been touted as a fashion influencer who makes bold choices. On Wednesday, the un-

expected piece of her look was the chunky, multistrand silver, turquoise and teal necklace by Tom Binns. Binns also had created the elaborate necklace the first lady wore last year in London when she and the president welcomed the British royals to the American ambassador's home for a black-tie dinner.

"First lady Mrs. Obama always looks so chic and modern. I love the addition of texture with the Tom Binns necklace," said Roksanda Ilincic, who has dressed both Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Cameron.

Mrs. Obama, in fact, wore a purple dress by Ilincic during that same trip to England.

"Dressing Mrs. Obama and Samantha Cameron have been wonderful. I am honored that each woman representing their countries have been such advocates in their respective roles," Ilincic said.

The other fashion plate at the dinner was Vogue editor-in-chief Anna Wintour, a well-known supporter of President Barack Obama. She wore Chanel.

HBO cancels horse racing series 'Luck'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The horseracing series "Luck" was canceled by HBO after a third thoroughbred died during production of the drama starring Dustin Hoffman and Nick Nolte, the channel said Wednesday.

"Luck," about the seedier side of racing, will air the final two episodes of its first season now in progress, HBO said. But the series won't return for the second season that began production last month, it said.

"While we maintained the highest safety standards possible, accidents unfortunately happen and it is impossible to guarantee they won't in the future," the channel said. "Accordingly, we have reached this difficult decision."

The move was made with David Milch, the show's creator, and Michael Mann, his fellow executive producer on the drama that brought film actor

Hoffman to series TV. It was a high-profile project for the premium channel that stakes its reputation on such fare.

HBO said it was "immensely proud" of the series and those involved in it, and the producers said in a joint statement that they "loved this series, loved the cast, crew and writers."

Retired jockey Gary Stevens, who co-stars on "Luck" and was in the racehorse movie "Seabiscuit," tweeted his support to the HBO series: "So bummed. Peace out to all my family in (hash)luck."

The American Humane Association, which oversees animal welfare on Hollywood productions, said that in light of the three deaths "this is arguably the best decision HBO could have made."

The group said it will work with HBO to ensure that horses used on "Luck" are "retired properly."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which had been sharply critical of the production, welcomed the cancellation and offered advice to HBO and the producers if they decide to resume it.

"PETA will be calling on them, as we have done from the start, to use stock racing footage instead of endangering horses for entertainment purposes," the group said in a statement.

On Tuesday, a horse was injured and euthanized at Santa Anita Park racetrack, and HBO agreed to suspend filming with the animals after the American Humane Association issued an immediate demand "that all production involving horses shut down" pending an investigation.

The animal was being led to a stable by a groom when it reared and fell back, suffering a head injury, according to HBO. The horse was euthanized at the track in suburban Arcadia.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the family of the late

*† Verena
Marie
Tudela
Cabrera*



Would like to express our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with their love, prayers, kindness and support during the daily masses that was in honor of our dearly beloved Verena's 3rd year anniversary.

Thank you, yan Un dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

The Family

Lohan tweets it's a 'lie' that her car grazed man

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lindsay Lohan said Wednesday that allegations that her car grazed a man's knee outside a Hollywood nightclub are "a complete lie."

Lohan went straight to her 3 million Twitter followers to respond to the latest in a long-line of car-related troubles for the "Mean Girls" actress and recent "Saturday Night Live" host.

"This is all a complete lie. I've been at community service," Lohan tweeted on her official account. "These false accusations are absurd."

According to police, Lohan's black Porsche was surrounded by paparazzi outside the club at about 12:30 a.m. Wednesday. The man told officers her sports car grazed his knee outside the club.

Lohan drove off and a police report wasn't taken because the man, an employee of the Hookah Lounge near the club, wasn't hurt, Los Angeles police Sgt. Mark Ro said.

The 25-year-old starlet was trying to make a U-turn outside the Wilcox Avenue club.

"Space was tight," the sergeant said, adding that Lohan may have nudged the lounge employee's parked car, believed to be a Corvette, but it wasn't damaged.

"He came out and said, 'Don't hit my car,'" Ro said. "She was making a multipoint U-turn and photographers were in her way."

The sergeant said he didn't know who called police, but Lohan was gone when officers arrived.

"We did not take a report for hit-and-run," Ro said. "We didn't go looking for her."

TMZ.com first reported the incident.

Lohan and her publicist

Steve Honig said she was trying to get to a friend's birthday party at the club, but she turned around when she was mobbed by photographers and never got out of her car.

"I attempted to wish a friend happy birthday, which I didn't even get to do because I was freaked out by all of the paparazzi," Lohan said on Twitter.

Honig said she and her Porsche did not make contact with anyone as she left.

"At no point was there ever any indication that her car hit anyone or anything," Honig said in a statement. "We are confident this matter will be cleared up in the next few days."

A phone message was left at the Hookah Lounge several hours before it opened, seeking comment from the man who was allegedly grazed. The call was not immediately returned.

Lohan has a history of bad luck with cars.

A woman claimed in a January lawsuit that she was struck by Lohan's Maserati while walking across a West Hollywood intersection in September 2010. Nubia Del Carmen Preza's lawsuit said she has suffered "disabling and serious personal injuries, pain, suffering and anguish."

Photographer Grigor Balyan also sued Lohan in January,

claiming he was struck by a vehicle in which Lohan was riding in January 2010.

During a court hearing last month, a judge praised Lohan on her progress in a long-running drunken driving case.

The former Disney star has been under strict probation guidelines imposed last year, including therapy sessions and weekly stints working at the morgue.

Lohan still had to complete 14 days of work at the morgue and attend five therapy sessions before the judge ends her probation on the 2007 drunken driving case.

She is due back in court March 29 for what could be her final court appearance if she stays out of trouble.



Lohan

Hollywood Reporter: Portman stylist most powerful



In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, Michelle Williams, wearing an ensemble styled by Kate Young, arrives at the 84th Academy Awards, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Kate Young, the stylist responsible for some of Michelle Williams' and Natalie Portman's most memorable red carpet moments, tops The Hollywood Reporter's countdown of the 25 most powerful stylists in showbiz.

Young earned the honor in part for helping make Portman a red carpet fixture last year while she was pregnant and on her way to winning the best actress Oscar for "Black Swan."

The issue ranks the trendsetters behind the A-listers, including Leslie Fremar at No. 2, whose clientele includes Charlize Theron and Reese Witherspoon.

No. 3 is Petra Flannery, who likes to discover new talent and make them fashion stars. Her roster includes Emma Stone, Zoe Saldana, Mila Kunis and Megan Fox.

Other notables: At No. 11, Jeanne Yang, who styles Katie Holmes so well they have a luxury sportswear collection in their names at Barneys New York; No. 12, L'Wren Scott, who is engaged to Mick Jagger and is a favorite of first lady Michelle Obama; and No. 20, reality TV star Brad Goreski, who made the list while his former employer, stylist-turned-designer Rachel Zoe, went from No. 1 last year to off the countdown this year. (The Hollywood Reporter says she's now "too big to rank.") The list is available online, and the magazine hits newsstands Thursday.

Deliberations begin in 'Desperate Housewives' case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jurors heard alternate plotlines Wednesday about Nicollette Sheridan's departure from TV "Desperate Housewives."

Her lawyers claimed she was fired after complaining that show creator Marc Cherry hit her in the head during an on-set dispute in September 2008.

Attorneys for Cherry and ABC countered that the decision to kill off Sheridan's character on the show had been made four months earlier for creative reasons and had nothing to do with the dustup.

The different versions were laid out in closing arguments delivered at Sheridan's wrongful termination trial before the jury began its deliberations. The actress is seeking roughly \$6 million in damages.

Mark Baute, the actress' attorney, accused ABC officials and Cherry of lying about when they decided to kill off the Edie Britt character. Baute also accused witnesses of destroying emails and other

documentation that would pinpoint the timing of the decision that he contends was made in December 2008.

"You don't make decisions on killing one of your top five actresses early," Baute said. "It's a game-day decision. You wait."

The attorney also told jurors it didn't make sense that ABC officials had renewed Sheridan's contract for the fifth season of the show if they intended to kill off her character. Her contract guaranteed her a full season's pay and a share of profits for the entire series.

Sheridan looked directly at the jurors as her attorney argued that she should be awarded millions for being dropped from the primetime comedy/soap opera.

In his closing argument ABC's lawyer Adam Levin contended that Cherry obtained permission to kill off the character in May, during early plan-

ning for the season, and the plan was endorsed by top studio and network officials because it made creative sense.

He urged the jury to reject defense contentions that most of the witnesses they heard during the two-week trial were lying.

"If there is a conspiracy, then these are the Keystone Kops of conspirators," Levin said. "The fact that these witnesses differ on small facts—it lends to their credibility."

Levin also said Baute and Sheridan were resorting to desperate tactics.

"Desperate is claiming that 10 good citizens of California conspired to get their story straight," Levin said.

He said the theory involved a "complicated story of conspiracy, perjuring witnesses, backdated documents and photographs" that simply wasn't true.

Levin said people such as former studio head Mark Pedowitz



Sheridan

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21 Jump Street

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The television series that shot Johnny Depp to stardom makes the leap to the big screen in this reboot starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) have the kind of faces that could let them pass for teenagers. Eager to prove themselves as effective policemen, the pair join the Jump Street program and go undercover to investigate a high-school drug ring. Now, the only thing more daunting than the prospect of taking on violent adolescent dope slingers is the possibility of experiencing the torture of their teenage years all over again. Ice Cube, Brie Larson, and Rob Riggle co-star.

The Vow

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13

John Carter

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Silent House

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Izabel Olsen, Adam Trese
Thriller • Rated R

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

Project X

Friday			9:35
Saturday			9:35
Sunday		7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		7:20	

Thomas Mann, Jonathan Brown
Comedy • Rated R

Act of Valor

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
Adventure, Action • Rated R

Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday		4:20	7:20
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

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Reigning 'world's ugliest dog' dies in California

HANFORD, Calif. (AP)—When a beloved pet dies, good manners usually dictate saying something nice about the departed companion.

And for Yoda, it was a compliment to say she sure was ugly.

Yoda won the 2011 World's Ugliest Dog contest at the Sonoma Marin Fair for her short tufts of hair, protruding tongue, and long, seemingly hairless legs.

The Chinese crested and Chihuahua mix died in her sleep Saturday. She was 15.

The 1.8-pound pooch had lived a rough life before Terry Schumacher found her abandoned behind an apartment building and mistook her for a rat.

The dog went on to bag \$1,000 and a trophy 15 times her size when she won the contest held in Petaluma, Calif., last June. Yoda and Schumacher became famous, appearing on national television.

Contest producer Vicki DeArmon said Yoda will keep the title until a new ugliest dog is crowned in June.

Schumacher, of Hanford, Calif., told the Hanford Sentinel (<http://bit.ly/wbPmiY>) that she will miss "her funny little ways."

But Schumacher said she was "comforted knowing she will be joining my Mom and Dad, who loved her so much. Her memories will live on forever."



In this June 24, 2011 file photo, a judge evaluates Yoda during the 2011 World's Ugliest Dog Contest in Petaluma, Calif.

Jermaine Jones disqualified from 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jermaine Jones was dismissed from "American Idol"—and not because of viewer votes.

It was revealed during Wednesday's installment of the Fox singing contest that the 25-year-old vocal instructor from Pine Hill, New Jersey, was disqualified Tuesday for not revealing that he had outstanding arrest warrants back home in New Jersey.

"Idol" executive producers Ken Warwick and Nigel Lythgoe confronted Jones about the issue in a taped segment.

"You were incumbent to tell us the truth about all of this, and it appears that you just haven't on any level," Warwick told Jones.

The so-called "gentle giant," as he was dubbed by host Ryan Seacrest, was one of the viewer-selected top 13 finalists after the judges gave him a last-minute spot in the 11th season's group of male semifinalists. He was among the bottom three vote-getters last week after performing Stevie Wonder's "Knocks Me Off My Feet" but advanced to the top 12 singers.

"I didn't want to get judged," said Jones. "I didn't want to get penalized for anything that hap-

pened in the past."

Seacrest said the remaining 11 finalists would be "at risk" of being eliminated Thursday.

Wednesday's show was billed as a night of tunes from the birth year of each "Idol" contestant, but for more than half of the finalists, it was an evening of covers of covers by other artists.

It worked for 28-year-old teacher Elise Testone, of Charleston, South Carolina, who took on Tina Turner's 1983 rendition of "Let's Stay Together;" 18-year-old singer Hollie Cavanaugh of McKinney, Texas, on Celine Dion's 1993 version of "The Power of Love" and 19-year-old student Joshua Ledet, of Westlake, Louisiana, on Michael Bolton's 1992 take on "When A Man Loves A Woman."

"The best thing I've ever seen on 'American Idol,'" Jennifer Lopez beamed to Ledet.

Other standouts Wednesday included 21-year-old pawn shop worker Phillip Phillips of Leesburg, Georgia, with The Black Crowes' "Hard to Handle;" 18-year-old country rocker Skylar Laine with Bonnie Raitt's "Love Sneakin' Up On You;" 16-year-old vocalist Shannon

Magrane, of Tampa, Florida, with Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men's "One Sweet Day;" and 20-year-old alt-rocker Colton Dixon, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, with White Lion's "Broken Heart."

"I think you look pretty when you sing," Lopez informed Dixon.

Several didn't wow with their classics, such as 16-year-old student Jessica Sanchez of San Diego with Gloria Estefan's "Turn the Beat Around;" 22-year-old nonprofit organizer Heejun Han of New York with Richard Marx's "Right Here Waiting;" and 17-year-old student Deandre Brackensick of San Jose, California, with Mariah Carey and Luther Vandross' "Endless Love."

"That was just way too boring," Randy Jackson informed Brackensick.

Sanchez, who emerged as one of this season's front-runners after delivering a powerful rendition of the late Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" last week, defended her song choice. She told the panel "there was not a lot to choose from" and "it was a bit of a challenge."

Steven Tyler said Sanchez's rhythm on "Turn the Beat Around" was "a little shady."

The uncharacteristically grumpy Aerosmith frontman earlier told 26-year-old disc jockey Erika Van Pelt, of South Kingstown, Rhode Island, that she was "too busy" during Bryan Adams' "Heaven," but Lopez said she liked Van Pelt's outfit.



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Vince Gill to headline bluegrass festival in Ky.

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP)—Country Music Hall of Fame member Vince Gill will be the featured artist in this year's Bluegrass Roots & Branches Festival in western Kentucky. Other acts scheduled to perform during the three days in Owensboro include Punch Brothers, Carolina Chocolate Drops and Greensky Bluegrass. International Bluegrass Music Museum Director Gabrielle Gray said Gill's roots are in bluegrass. Gray told the Messenger-Inquirer that Gill's band will be one of four to perform on June 28, which is the opening night. Gray said one more headliner will be announced.

Domingo to sing title role in 'Nabucco' in London

LONDON (AP)—Plácido Domingo will sing the title character in Verdi's "Nabucco" for the first time at The Royal Opera next year. The new production, announced Wednesday, will be the fourth new role for Domingo in little more than a year, all baritone parts. The 71-year-old, famous for his decades as a tenor, also is slated to make role debuts in Massenet's "Thais" in March in Spain, Verdi's "I Due Foscari" at Los Angeles in September, and Verdi's "La Traviata" at New York's Metropolitan Opera next March. He will appear in "Nabucco" in April, 2013. The Royal Opera also will present the British premiere of George Benjamin's "Written on Skin," and new productions of Meyerbeer's "Robert le Diable," Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," Rossini's "La Donna del Lago" and Britten's "Gloriana."

Oscars to return to Hollywood & Highland Feb. 24

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 85th Academy Awards have been set for Feb. 24, 2013, and they'll take place once again at the Hollywood & Highland Center. The venue, formerly known as the Kodak Theatre, opened in 2001 to be the permanent home of the Hollywood's biggest awards ceremony. Eastman Kodak Co. filed for bankruptcy protection and dropped its name from the event just before this year's Oscars were handed out. A representative of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences says the academy has a contract with the owner of the Hollywood & Highland Center through the 2013 show. Negotiations are still ongoing as to where there ceremony might take place in upcoming years. Academy Award nominations are set for Jan. 15, 2013.



In this Dec. 9, 2011 file photo, actress Charlize Theron poses for a portrait in New York.

Charlize Theron adopts baby boy named Jackson

NEW YORK (AP)—Actress Charlize Theron is a mother: The actress has adopted a child.

In a statement to The Associated Press on Wednesday, Theron's publicist said the actress is a "proud mom of a healthy baby boy named Jackson."

No more details were provided.

Theron is from South Africa. This is the actress' first child.

The 36-year-old won an Academy Award for her role as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in 2003's "Monster."

She was also nominated for an Oscar for 2005's "North Country." She next stars as an evil queen in "Snow White and the Huntsman."

Doctor fails to earn clean bill of health from patient

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I recently began going to a new doctor after the one I had been using retired. I like her. She shows a genuine interest in my well-being, seems to diagnose well and I get good results from her treatments. She doesn't keep me waiting and has a charming, warm personality.

So what's the problem? She's not very clean. There is sometimes dirt under her fingernails. Her

white coat is tattered and filthy, and when she gets close there's an odor that's less than pleasant. Once after touching me, she washed her hands by sticking her fingertips under cold water for a few seconds—no soap or scrubbing. She had not washed before touching me.

There are so many good things about her I hate to lose her as a doctor. She'll be insulted if I say anything. If I cancel an appointment, it will raise questions and lead to hurt feelings. What do I do?

FREAKED OUT IN ALBANY

DEAR FREAKED OUT: Find another doctor. (I was tempted to say, "Run for your life!") As warm, charming, caring and attentive as your doctor may be, her poor hygiene is a danger to your health. That she would present herself to patients in the condition you have described and practice such poor hygiene makes me wonder how qualified she is to practice medicine.

One other thing you should consider doing—because you like her—is to write her a letter explaining why you won't be seeing her anymore. She obviously needs a wake-up call.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother is dying of old age and heart failure. It's not unexpected and we are preparing for the end to come soon.

The problem is I'm not a good housekeeper, and I am in marginal health. My husband is disabled and is, frankly, a slob. I have given up trying to keep a clean house while caring for him, my mother and myself. I just don't have the strength to do it all, and my husband does nothing except lie around on his bed watching TV or sleeping all day.

I know when my mother passes, people will want to come here to visit or bring food. My house is so dirty and deplorable I don't want anyone to come here. What should I do? I have thought about hiring a service, but I'm not sure I can afford it. Any other suggestions?

OVERWHELMED AND TIRED IN TEXAS

DEAR OVERWHELMED AND TIRED: Please accept my sympathy for the impending loss of your mother. Even when death is accepted as inevitable, it is nonetheless heart wrenching. I'll offer two suggestions:

The first is to talk to your religious adviser about your concerns, because it's possible some volunteers from your mother's church—or your own—might be kind enough to help you get your house in order to receive guests after the funeral. The other would be to request that guests meet afterward at the church reception hall or funeral home for refreshments.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I find it hard to deal with my P.E. teacher. She is rude, mean and she always calls me out. When you need to make a correction on your test, she throws the quiz at you and then you have to pick it up. She is very impatient also. Do you have any advice on how to deal with such a person?

DONE WITH HER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR DONE WITH HER: Your teacher appears to be a troubled woman. The way to deal with her would be for your parents—and the parents of any other students she is treating this way—to bring it to the attention of the principal of the school so it can be addressed.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

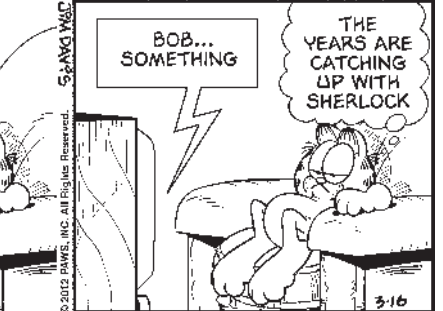
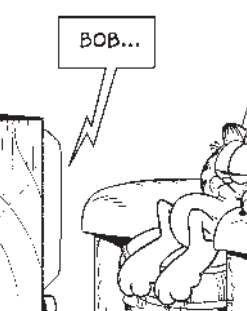
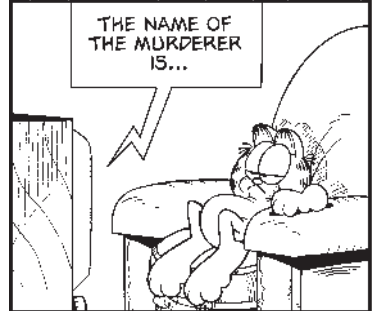
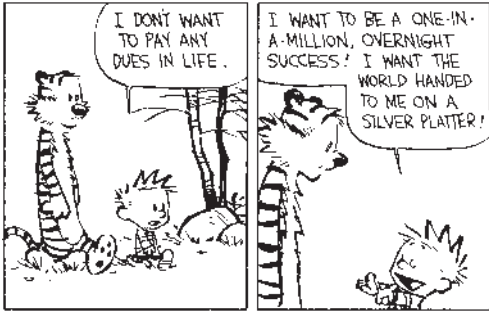
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

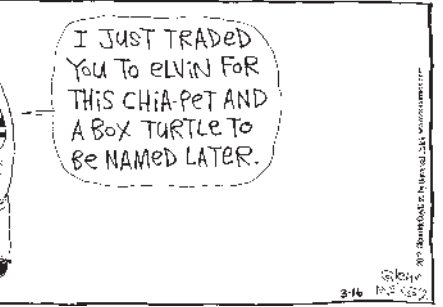
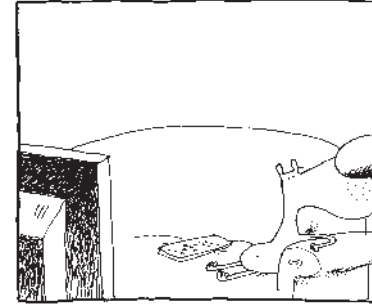
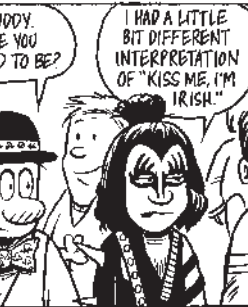
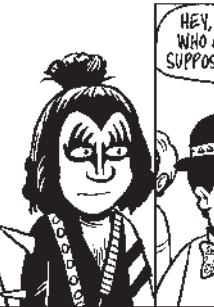
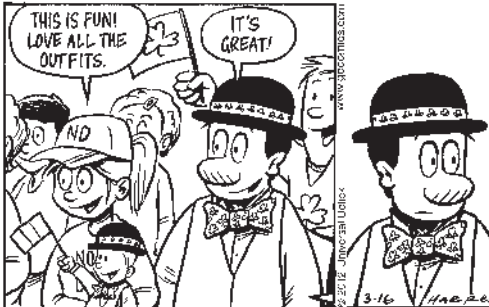


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Reggae relative
4 Toss in
7 Heathen
12 Fix a skirt, maybe
13 Whopper
14 Battery terminal
15 "The — Daba Honey-moon"
16 Large Asian
18 Rodent
19 Beelike
20 Sacred bird of Egypt
22 Flightless bird
23 Jason's craft
27 Listener
29 Potassium provider
31 Oust
34 Computer fodder
35 Small chicken
37 Support system?

DOWN

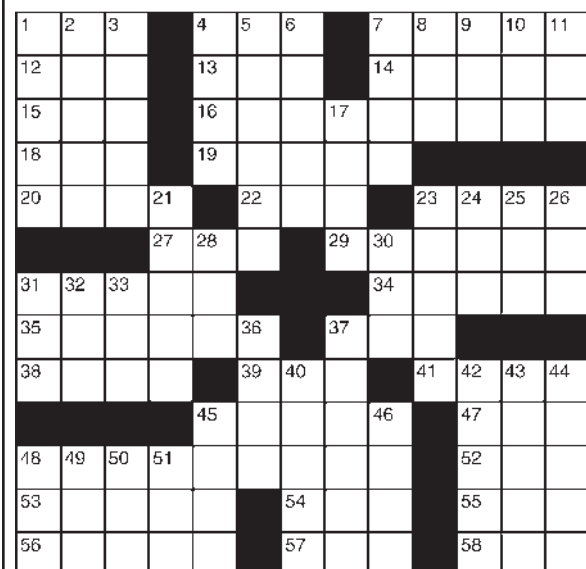
38 Tournament situations
39 Cinnabar, e.g.
41 Note from the boss
45 Fuss
47 "To be or — ..."
48 Handrail (Var.)
52 Drunkard
53 Foreigner
54 Superlative suffix
55 Work with
56 Under a jinx
57 Pigpen
58 Always, in verse

23 Part of Vietnam
24 Knock
25 Wildebeest
26 Feedbag tidbit
28 —
30 Melody
31 Recede
32 Funny Leno
33 Away from WSW
36 Cattle calls?
37 Command
40 Memory methods
42 Follow
43 Bullwinkle, e.g.
44 Playful water critter
45 Hart's mate
46 Bohemian
48 Scrooge's cry
49 Hearty quaff
50 Kibosh
51 Born

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	O	D	B	E	N	T	T	O	O	L
O	R	E	E	T	U	I	U	G	L	Y
A	B	D	I	C	A	T	E	G	R	I
I	N	K	S	U	R	G	E	O	N	
D	O	C	T	O	R	P	I	E		
A	H	A	N	A	G	O	R	M	A	N
M	I	T	F	Y	A	W	S	F	R	A
P	O	E	M	S	G	A	P	D	A	M
A	P	T	S	I	M	I	L	E		
O	K	I	N	A	W	A	P	A	C	
M	I	R	A	I	N	D	I	C	A	T
A	L	O	T	S	T	U	N	T	E	E
N	O	N	E	T	I	N	G	E	L	L

Yesterday's answer 3-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Judah Friedlander, 43; Lauren Graham, 45; Victor Garber, 63; Jerry Lewis, 86.

Happy Birthday: Market what you have to offer and you will not be disappointed in the results. Don't leave anything undone or trust someone else to do the job to your satisfaction. Everything depends on how you handle others and satisfy your own needs. Strive to turn your dream into a reality. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 26, 34, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't misread what others want from you. Ulterior motives are apparent. Before you agree to anything, be ready to deal with the underlying expectations. Take responsibility and proceed with caution. Experience will help you now. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make plans to do something energetic, playful and family-oriented. Time spent with youngsters or doing something physical will improve your outlook and help you figure out some of the decisions weighing heavily on your mind. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep things in perspective, especially when it comes to your health, contracts and legal or financial matters. Face any problems head-on. Running from the truth will set you back. Clear the air and make the necessary changes to improve your future. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Steer clear of unpredictable people. You need to strive for stability in all aspects of your life. Partnerships that are based on solid ground

will help you conquer anything or anyone that could present a problem. Love and romance are highlighted. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's your prerogative to change your mind, as long as you don't upset a peer or boss in doing so. Keeping the peace will be required if you want to be the hero. Change is good if it benefits everyone involved. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are the one who should determine what you do and how you do it. You have a good eye regarding self-improvements and which projects to pursue in order to get ahead. Romance and socializing are highlighted. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give in to force. Emotional problems due to added responsibilities can be expected. Older relatives are likely to present a burdensome problem. Use your clout to influence the outcome in your personal and financial favor. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Face any personal problem head-on. Communication will be key to resolving issues that are bothering you. Honesty coupled with a keen sense of what will work for everyone involved will help you keep the peace and get your way. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Not everyone is on your side or looking out for your best interests. Ask questions if you don't understand what's going on with someone you must deal with. Make changes at home that are conducive to your comfort and emotional well-being. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Fix up your digs. Invest in your looks and your personal relationships. It's time for an overhaul that will lift your spirits and ease your stress. Your intuition is spot-on, allowing you to make choices that will help your financial situation. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't make an impulsive decision based on an emotional situation. You need to bide your time and plan your actions carefully if you want to avoid a problem with someone who has the potential to make your life difficult. ★★



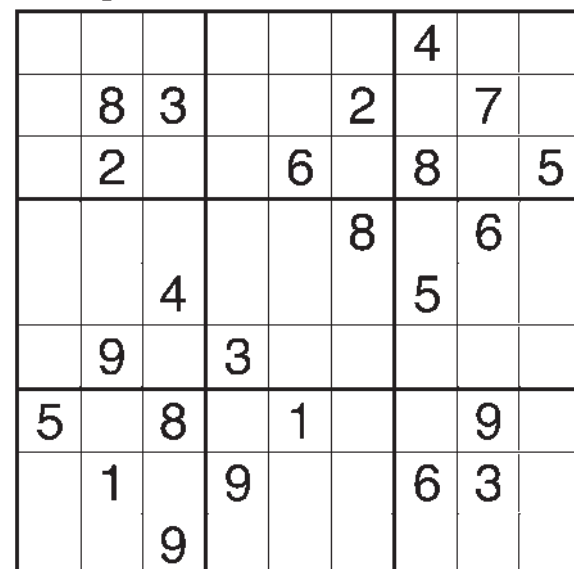
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can rely on a friend or lover to help you out of a tight spot. Love and romance are highlighted, and plans to relive something you have enjoyed doing in the past should be implemented. A self-improvement project will build your confidence. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, loyal and responsible. You respond quickly and efficiently. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

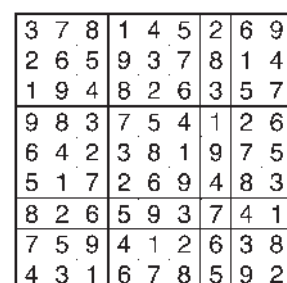


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/16

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NAIL POLISH SHADES

Solution: 8 letters



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3/16

Apple, Beige, Blackberry, Blossom, Blue, Bright, Brisk, Brown, Cantaloupe, Cherry, Chocolate, Clear, Coat, Colors, Evergreen, Fill, Glitter, Gold, Lagoon, Lemon, Lilac, Melon, Mocha, Neon, Peppermint, Pink, Purple, Radiance, Raspberry, Reds, Resolution, Ruby, Sassy, Shimmer, Silver, Soft, Sparkle, Strawberry, Stripes, Tropical, Violet, Wine, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Games

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD: Words that appear in the puzzle are: Apple, Beige, Blackberry, Blossom, Blue, Bright, Brisk, Brown, Cantaloupe, Cherry, Chocolate, Clear, Coat, Colors, Evergreen, Fill, Glitter, Gold, Lagoon, Lemon, Lilac, Melon, Mocha, Neon, Peppermint, Pink, Purple, Radiance, Raspberry, Reds, Resolution, Ruby, Sassy, Shimmer, Silver, Soft, Sparkle, Strawberry, Stripes, Tropical, Violet, Wine, Yellow

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CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR SALE

**Aluminum Container (will not rust)
Converted to Guest House/Studio**

Furnished with split type aircon, built-in shower, vanity with large mirror and separate toilet. Also has sliding patio door with vertical blinds. All in good condition.

Serious inquiries only. Contact Mila at 234-2440

Employment Opportunity

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE) seeks a Fulltime Office Manager.

Essential competencies

1. Billing
2. Budgeting
3. Communications
4. Organizational skills
5. Human resources
6. Computers: Data base management/Front page/publisher software

Qualifications
Bachelors Degree with 3 or more years of managerial experience. Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Closing Date: March 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: cbne.resumes@gmail.com

We are currently seeking positive, outgoing individuals for the position of:

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/BANQUET, EVENT & ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

Must have proficient knowledge in Adobe CS5, Microsoft Office, photography, with 3 years working experience in hotel and restaurant industry, and capable of multi-tasking. Must have at least 2 years work experience as a Banquets Coordinator. Must be able to provide assistance to the Food & Beverage management team and assist with banquets, including banquet proposals, creating event signage, menus, advertising materials and promotional collateral.

Interview process will include demonstration of graphic design ability and photography skills.

All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application deadline is **5pm on Tuesday, March 20, 2012.**

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia - Iimwal Aweewe - House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

NATURE OF WORK: Under the direction of the Director of Courts, the Administrative Officer/Human Resource Officer will be responsible for the coordination of all aspects of hiring, discipline and termination processes, the development and maintenance of employment programs and personnel policies and procedures. The Administrative Officer/Human Resource Officer will also assist the Director of Courts with planning, organizing, directing, supervising, and managing the Judiciary's other administrative functions. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assisting with the employment selection process, including preparing job vacancy announcements, scheduling and conducting interviews, documenting hiring decisions, and processing personnel actions;
- Implementing and conducting an orientation program for new staff;
- Developing and implementing methods for the evaluation of staff performance;
- Supporting and advising supervisors and managers regarding employee issues, disciplinary matters, behavior, and performance;
- Administering paperwork related to employee benefits;
- Responding to inquiries and ensuring that managers of the Judiciary understand the legal requirements of all equal employment opportunity and employee benefits laws, including the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, unemployment benefits, workers' compensation, and other employment-related laws;
- Planning and implementing professional development and training for employees;
- Maintaining current job descriptions for all Judiciary positions;
- Maintaining updated personnel folders for all Judiciary staff;
- Maintaining a list of current Judiciary personnel, tracking personnel contract expiration dates, and processing personnel actions for contract renewals;
- Handling complex issues, questions, sensitive and confidential matters;
- Consulting with legal counsel when necessary regarding legal aspects of Human Resources issues;
- Preparing reports as requested;
- Compiling fiscal and statistical data;
- Performing other administrative assignments in a variety of areas such as finance, budget and finance, procurement of goods and services, and maintenance of the Judicial Complex;
- Performs other duties as assigned by the Director of Courts.

QUALIFICATIONS: The Administrative Officer/Human Resource Officer should hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Human Resources management, Business or Public Administration, Social Sciences or closely related field and possess at least four years of progressively responsible experience in Human Resources Management.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary is \$30,000 to \$35,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and complete application to the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Honorable Alexandro C. Castro, at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. For additional information about this position, call (670)236-9800. Resume and application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 23, 2012.

WHATZIT Solution: Under enemy fire

EMPLOYMENT

Body and fender/mechanic wanted. See Joe at SASCO, Middle Road, Garapan.

Wanted: Beautician
Please call 287-6532

WANTED TO BUY

Seriously looking for used cars Year 2003 & up 4 cylinder. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676

IPod & iPhone Repair

We Buy & Sell Used iPod & iPhone

Please call **233-5641**

Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Colin M. Thompson, Esq.
Thompson Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, JET Building
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
PMB 917, Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
Facsimile: (670) 233-0776

Attorney for Plaintiffs

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

ZENAIDA B. MANSAY, SHERA CELINE M. ABADILLA and SHAINA RUZEN M. ABADILLA, Plaintiffs,	Civil Action No. 10-0190
vs	SUMMONS
VICENTE N. CRUZ, Defendant.	

TO: DEFENDANT, VICENTE N. CRUZ

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to appear and defend the claims presented in this Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you and deliver or mail a copy of your Responsive Pleading to the Plaintiff's counsel whose address is at Thompson Law Office, LLC, 2nd Floor JET Building, PMB 917, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your Responsive Pleading.

Your Responsive Pleading to the Complaint should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, CNMI. It may be prepared and signed by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by electronic filing or by messenger or mail. It is not necessary to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to appear and defend in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the Court.

Dated this 29th day of June, 2010

/s/Clerk of Court

WANTED TO BUY

We want to buy Continental OnePass Miles. Please call tel: 234-6533

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For \$200.00/month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. \$695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Knicks rout Blazers after D’Antoni’s departure

 **NEWYORK (AP)**—Amare Stoudemire made all seven shots in the first half and Carmelo Anthony passed and shot well as the New York Knicks shook off the surprising departure of their coach to rout the Portland Trail Blazers 121-79 on Wednesday, snapping a six-game losing streak.

Anthony, who denied wanting a trade or having friction with former coach Mike D’Antoni earlier Wednesday, had 16 points on 6-of-12 shooting and tied a season high with seven assists. Stoudemire finished with 17 points and shot 8 of 10, before both stars sat out the fourth quarter while the Knicks rang up their highest point total of the season.

LaMarcus Aldridge and Gerald Wallace each scored 15 points for the Trail Blazers.

Lakers 107, Hornets 101, OT

In New Orleans, Kobe Bryant scored 33 points as the Los Angeles Lakers won their fourth straight game and second straight in overtime.

For the second night in a row, the Lakers climbed out of a double-digit hole in the second half to force an extra period. On Tuesday night, they came back from 17 down to win at Memphis in double-overtime. The Hornets also led by as many as 17 late in the second quarter and 15 in the second half.

Andrew Bynum added 25 points and Pau Gasol 18 for Los Angeles.

Jarrett Jack scored 30 for New Orleans.

Spurs 122, Magic 111

In San Antonio, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 12 rebounds while losing what could be his last game with Orlando.

Howard, who said before the game he won’t surrender his right to become a free agent this summer, had 22 points and 12 rebounds on the eve of the NBA trade deadline.

Tony Parker had 31 points and 12 assists, and Tim Duncan had 21 points and 13 rebounds as the Spurs closed a seven-game homestand by hosting the NBA’s biggest drama.

Pacers 111, 76ers 94

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 20 points as Indiana shot a season-high 57 percent from the field to win its second straight.

David West scored 18 points, George Hill had 17 and Roy Hibbert added 14 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three blocks for the Pacers, who out-rebounded the 76ers 37-26.

Evan Turner scored 21 points,

Jrue Holiday had 17, Elton Brand added 16 and Andre Iguodala had 10 points and nine assists for the 76ers.

Nets 98, Raptors 84

In Newark, New Jersey, Kris Humphries had 16 points and a career-high 21 rebounds to lead New Jersey past Toronto.

Former D-League star Gerald Green tied his season high by scoring 20 of his 26 points in the second half as the Nets snapped a two-game losing streak. Anthony Morrow added 15 points for New Jersey, which shot 48 percent from the field.

James Johnson and Jerryd Bayless had 16 points apiece for Toronto, which was limited to 38 second-half points, including 15 in the third quarter when the Nets took the lead.

Rockets 107, Bobcats 87

In Houston, Luis Scola scored 23 points, and Goran Dragic had 14 points and 10 assists as Houston routed league-worst Charlotte.

Samuel Dalembert added 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Hill scored 14 and grabbed eight rebounds for the Rockets, who’ve won two in a row after dropping six of their previous seven games.

Derrick Brown scored 15 to lead the Bobcats, who’ve lost 20 of 23 road games this season.

Bucks 115, Cavaliers 105

In Milwaukee, Drew Gooden had 15 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists for his second career triple-double to lead Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Gooden completed the triple-double with a rebound near the end of the third quarter. Gooden also had a triple-double against the Cavaliers last April, marking the last time the Bucks had a player accomplish the feat.

Ersan Ilyasova had 22 points before fouling out for the Bucks, who have won four straight.

Kyrie Irving had 28 points for the Cavaliers, who lost their second in a row.

Bulls 106, Heat 102

In Chicago, John Lucas III scored 24 points, as Chicago beat Miami without Derrick Rose in a charged showdown between the Eastern Conference’s top two teams.

The Bulls built a 16-point lead in the second quarter, were up 11 at halftime and boosted it back to 17 in the third after a push by Miami. They then hung on after Miami pulled within two in the closing minute for their 11th win in 12 games.

Even better, they won without their superstar, and they did it on a night when Dwyane Wade scored

36 and LeBron James finished with 35 points for the Heat.

Pistons 124, Kings 112

In Sacramento, California, Rodney Stuckey scored 35 points and Greg Monroe had 32 for Detroit, which used a huge third-quarter effort to pull away from Sacramento.

Stuckey led the Pistons’ 40-23 effort in the third quarter, connecting on four 3-pointers and scoring 19 points as the Pistons built their lead to 97-81 entering the fourth. Detroit made 15 of 20 shots for their highest points total in a quarter this season, and the Pistons never let the lead get below eight points in the fourth.

Tyreke Evans scored 23 points for the Kings, but left the game and didn’t return after a hard fall in the fourth quarter. Jason Thompson had 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Kings, losers of three straight games.

Celtics 105, Warriors 103

In Oakland, California, Kevin Garnett scored 12 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, including a tiebreaking jumper with 5.1 seconds left that led Boston over Golden State.

Brandon Bass added a season-high 22 points, Paul Pierce and Mickael Pietrus each chipped in 15 and Rajon Rondo dished out 14 assists for the Celtics.

Rookie Klay Thompson led the Warriors with a season-high 26 points, David Lee added 22 and Nate Robinson had 20 points and 11 assists.

Clippers 96, Hawks 82

In Los Angeles, Mo Williams scored 25 points and fellow reserve Eric Bledsoe added 14 on a relatively quiet night by Blake Griffin and Chris Paul, leading the Los Angeles Clippers over Atlanta.

The victory kept the Clippers within two games of the Lakers in the race for the Pacific Division lead. Griffin had 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Paul contributed 13 points and nine assists.

Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 19 points, and Josh Smith added 18.

Suns 120, Jazz 111

In Phoenix, Channing Frye scored 26 points and Marcin Gortat had 25 as Phoenix overcame a 13-point deficit to beat Utah.

Jared Dudley added 21 points and Steve Nash finished with 12 points and 16 assists for Phoenix. The Suns have won six of their past seven at home, and have trailed by double digits in all six wins.

Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap each scored 18 points for Utah, which has lost six straight against Phoenix.

Coach D’Antoni resigns as Knicks skid

NEW YORK (AP)—Maybe there’s a big-name coach out there who can bring out the best in Carmelo Anthony and the New York Knicks.

Mike D’Antoni decided Wednesday he wasn’t that guy. And so, he resigned, surprising even his bosses.

“It wasn’t just Carmelo,” interim general manager Glen Grunwald said. “I think it was our whole team was not playing up to where we thought they could be and I know Mike was as frustrated as anyone about that and that’s what led him to that decision, that

maybe there needs to be a new approach and look at it.”

Assistant Mike Woodson was promoted to interim head coach and led the Knicks to a 121-79 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers at Madison Square Garden.

Lions sign Calvin Johnson to \$132M deal



ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—The Detroit Lions have signed wide receiver Calvin Johnson

to an eight-year contract worth up to \$132 million, the biggest deal in NFL history.

The player's agent, Bus Cook, said the contract announced Wednesday is worth \$60 million guaranteed. That figure and the total value of the contract are both NFL records.

"This kind of deal doesn't come around too often," Cook said. "He's the best."

Johnson helped Detroit reach the playoffs last season for the first time in a dozen years. The Lions have built one of the league's most exciting young teams by drafting Johnson in 2007, quarterback Matthew Stafford two years later and defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh in 2010. The challenge now will be keeping all those stars long term.

Johnson, nicknamed Megatron, is a two-time Pro Bowler and his 45 touchdowns receiving are the most in the NFL since 2008. He signed a six-year deal worth up to \$64 million after Detroit drafted him No. 2 overall in 2007, and was entering the final year of that contract.

This extension starts immediately and runs through the 2019 season.

"They were happy to get this thing done with, and I was happy as well," Johnson said. "It wasn't a lot of confrontation. We weren't butting heads or anything. It was just some-



From left, Detroit Lions general manager Martin Mayhew, wide receiver Calvin Johnson, president Tom Lewand and coach Jim Schwartz, from left, pose for a picture at the start of a news conference announcing Johnson's signing of an eight-year contract, at the Lions' training facility in Allen Park, Mich., Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

thing that we knew needed to get done."

The deal tops the one given to receiver Larry Fitzgerald of Arizona last year—an eight-year deal that could pay him as much as \$120 million.

"Calvin's one of those guys—we've said this about a few guys that we have in our building—whatever they pay him is not enough," Lions coach

Jim Schwartz said. "He's truly a special player."

Johnson is coming off a spectacular season in which he did what only Jerry Rice and Randy Moss have done. Rice, Moss and Johnson are the only players in NFL history with at least 95 receptions, 1,600 yards and 15 touchdowns in a season. Johnson finished with 96 catches for a league-best 1,681 yards

and 16 TDs.

Johnson is also one of six receivers in league history with at least 45 TD catches and 5,000 yards receiving in a four-season span, along with Rice, Moss, Terrell Owens, Marvin Harrison and Lance Alworth.

In the playoffs, Johnson caught 12 passes for 211 yards and 2 touchdowns in a loss to New Orleans, becoming the

first player with 200 receiving yards in a playoff debut.

Johnson said the conclusion of Peyton Manning's tenure in Indianapolis made him appreciate the opportunity to stay with the Lions for a while.

"The comfort level you receive, being able to be in one place for a long time, is unlike any other," Johnson said. "Having security, not having to worry about where

Titans wrap up meeting with Manning in Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans coach Mike Munchak had a big smile on his face when he left the team headquarters Wednesday night after daylong meetings with Peyton Manning.

The quarterback waved to fans waiting for a glimpse of him and gave a thumbs' up.

Maybe signs that Tennessee's pitch to the four-time NFL MVP went well, though no deals were announced after Manning spent about eight hours with Titans executives on a plane and at the team's headquarters.

The next move is up to Manning.

Titans spokesman Robbie Bohren declined to comment. However, owner Bud Adams told Nashville station WSMV-TV late Wednesday night he thinks Manning was very pleased with what he saw from the Titans.

"He's going to make his mind up fairly soon, hopefully we'd be in the running," Adams said.

Manning walked out of the Titans' building with Munchak at 10:05 p.m. EDT where about 50 fans who had gathered along the fence greeted him by yelling "Peyton, Peyton." Manning acknowledged them with a wave before getting into Munchak's

SUV and the two driving away through a back gate.

It was unclear if Manning was on the team plane that returned Wednesday night to the Raleigh-Durham airport, where the Titans had picked him up earlier. Manning's friend and Duke coach David Cutcliffe lives in the area. Cutcliffe was Manning's offensive coordinator at the University of Tennessee and the quarterback has worked out several times over the past six weeks at the Blue Devils' facilities.

Fans of Denver, Arizona, Miami and now Tennessee all are looking for clues on which team Manning will pick.

One sign Titans fans should possibly pay close attention to was a visit by the team doctor Burton Elrod to the facility during Manning's visit. Elrod arrived and spent 90 minutes inside before leaving.

Offensive line coach Bruce Matthews, a Hall of Fame lineman like Munchak, also was seen leaving the facility not long after Elrod.

The Titans did just what Adams said: The 89-year old Adams instructed team executives to spend the day with Manning.

Tennessee pulled out all the

stops.

Munchak, general manager Ruston Webster and chief operating officer Mike Reinfeldt landed in North Carolina just before 1:30 p.m. EDT to pick Manning up.

The quarterback, wearing a Tennessee orange shirt, arrived at the Raleigh-Durham airport riding in the backseat of black Escalade about 20 minutes later, boarded the plane and the group headed back to the Volunteer state.

The owner got plenty of help from fans of Manning and the Titans, flocking to the street in front of the team complex throughout the afternoon. They broke out in cheers at times, while Rob Shuler of Nashville brought two friends with him. They drew up posters begging Manning to sign with Tennessee.

Cars and trucks slowed to watch, honking in response to a sign asking them to let Manning know how much he's wanted.

Even Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam called Manning during his visit, Adams told WSMV-TV.

A local radio station set up briefly and blared "Rocky Top" over speakers alongside TV re-

porters busy broadcasting live during afternoon newscasts, adding to the circus atmosphere.

Meanwhile, the Titans were going about their business.

Reinfeldt left around 6 p.m. EDT talking on a cell phone, followed shortly by dinner being brought in from a nearby Italian restaurant.

Fans came and went during the day. People stayed near the fence despite a storm that had lightning slicing the sky nearby followed by a rainbow. Then a shooting star was seen, prompting two fans to instantly make a wish that Manning sign with Tennessee.

Adams has said he will do whatever it takes to sign Manning in his chase for a championship. He sees the quarterback as the missing piece. The owner remained in Houston Tuesday, which why Reinfeldt joined Webster and Munchak for this trip.

The owner promoted Reinfeldt from general manager in January to senior executive vice president and COO to act as his point man with the team in Tennessee while he lives 650 miles away.

The Titans already have veteran Matt Hasselbeck with two

I'm going to be next year. And then two—having a good team, having a lot of guys locked up on this team that you've had success with, and that you just continue to grow with."

Stafford has three years left on the deal he signed as a rookie, so the Lions appear set with arguably the league's top quarterback-receiver tandem for the foreseeable future.

"When you're fortunate to have a good quarterback, those don't come by a lot in the league," Johnson said. "How many teams are looking for a No. 1 quarterback right now? I would have to be beside myself to leave here."



NFL BRIEFS

Brees: Next month 'critical' in contract talks

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees wants a long-term extension with the Saints completed before the club's offseason training program begins in April. The quarterback also says he is concerned about how New Orleans is being portrayed in the wake of the NFL's bounty investigation. The reigning AP offensive player of the year calls the time between now and the first offseason workouts "a very critical period" in his contract negotiations, stopping short of saying whether he would practice or play under his current franchise tag designation. In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Brees said he does not know all the facts about the bounty scandal. But he says the notion that numerous Saints players intended to hurt opposing players and end their careers is "far from the truth."

All-Pro Nicks joins Bucs, others stay put

Carl Nicks has become the first 2011 All-Pro to change teams in free agency, leaving New Orleans on Wednesday for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Considered one of the NFL's best pass blockers, Nicks is a two-time Pro Bowl player and was a key on the Saints' record-setting offense. He has joined cornerback Eric Wright, who also signed with the Bucs on the second day of free agency. Both got five-year deals. On Tuesday, Tampa Bay added star receiver Vincent Jackson for five years and \$55.55 million. Chicago added wide receiver Eric Weems, also a standout on special teams who could ease the kick returns burden on Devin Hester. The previous day, the Bears traded with Miami for wideout Brandon Marshall and signed quarterback Jason Campbell. Eagles defensive end Trent Cole, who had 11 sacks last season, agreed to a four-year extension with Philadelphia. (AP)

South Fla. works over Calif. in NCAA tourney



DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Every bump and swat threw yet another chill into a California team that had never seen anything like it.

Must have made the other teams in South Florida's bracket shudder just a bit, too.

The Bulls introduced the Big East's nastiest defense to the NCAA tournament Wednesday night, allowing only 13 points in the first half of a 65-54 victory over a California team that went long stretches without a single point.

Ugly, ugly, ugly. Just the way South Florida likes it.

"We get mad when people score, no matter what kind of bucket it is," said Victor Rudd, who had 15 points. "And that's what makes us have people scoring in the 50s, 40s. We don't like it when people score at all, not even on a free throw. "So we get mad at each other, and that's how we play great defense."

South Florida (21-13) will play No. 5 seed Temple in Nashville on Friday, a match-up of teams known for gritty defense. Few have been better than this one for the first 20 minutes on the NCAA stage.

The Bulls swarmed 'em, bumped 'em and swatted their shots away—those that weren't air balls, that is.

California (24-10) didn't

score over the last 8:55 of the first half, missing 10 shots and turning it over twice while South Florida pulled ahead 36-13.

"We just didn't have any energy," California guard Allen Crabbe said.

Yep, the Bulls stole that away, too.

Guard Jorge Gutierrez, the Pac-12 player of the year, was held to 10 points on 4-of-10 shooting. California managed only five field goals in the first half, when three of their points came off free throws.

"I didn't imagine that happening," California coach Mike Montgomery said. "We dug ourselves a huge hole in the first half, and that's probably as bad as I've seen us play. We weren't doing much of anything."

It wasn't all defense that got it done for South Florida. Freshman point guard Anthony Collins, a thin-built player with a youthful face that reminds coach Stan Heath of a 12-year-old kid, played like a star in his first NCAA tournament game, scoring 12 points.

"We play great defense," Collins said. "So when we just take our time and get great shots on offense, I think we can beat anybody."

The Golden Bears won't soon forget the way they got worked over. They must have felt as if there were six Bulls on the floor

at times playing defense.

No, only five. The refs counted.

The Bulls set a Big East record by giving up only 56.9 points per game this season. Their problem: They score about as many points as they give up. South Florida didn't have a player average in double figures for the season.

Realizing he didn't have many scoring options, Heath instituted the defense-first, defense-last philosophy that got them to their first NCAA tournament appearance in 20 years and, now, their first win. The Bulls came in 0-2 in the tournament.

Other teams exult when one of their players hits a big basket. The Bulls cheer from the bench as the other team passes the ball around helplessly and hopelessly.

They were cheering their defense from the opening tip.

The first time down the court, Gutierrez forced a running shot that was too hard, a taste of the misery ahead. California missed its first five shots and eight of its first nine, helping South Florida pull ahead 15-3.

Collins made a driving layup, a floater, a 15-foot pull-up jumper and a layup off his steal during the opening run, getting South Florida's unpredictable offense moving.

The Golden Bears readily

acknowledged that they hadn't played anything quite like the Bulls' defense. With four players averaging in double figures, their best chance was to spread the ball around and be patient.

They ran out of patience real fast, prompting Montgomery to call a timeout to get his team settled down. Instead, things quickly got worse.

A lot worse.

Gutierrez hit a fade-away 15-foot jumper with 8:56 left in the first half. The Golden Bears wouldn't score again before halftime, with South Florida pulling off a 14-0 run. It ended with a telling moment: California guard Justin Cobbs dribbling toward the basket and failing to even attempt a shot before the buzzer sounded.

Totally discombobulated.

The Golden Bears shuffled toward the locker room with blank expressions. Their 13 points matched the seventh-fewest in an opening half since the NCAA tournament expanded in 1985, according to STATS LLC.

The Bulls pulled ahead 57-25 with 8:49 left, making sure there wouldn't be another big comeback on the same floor where two of them opened the First Four on Tuesday night.

"I really liked for the 30 minutes the way we played," Heath said.

The only question was how low they could keep the score.

California got its 40th point with 2:54 to go, and fouled repeatedly in the final minute, giving itself enough chances to hit the 50-point mark.

Vermont 71, Lamar 59

In Dayton, Ohio, it's been seven years since Vermont's signature win in school history.

The Catamounts think it's about time for another.

North Carolina, are you paying attention?

Freshman Four McGlynn came off the bench to score 18 points and Vermont grabbed an early lead and hung on to beat Lamar 71-59 on Wednesday night in a first-round NCAA tournament game.

Matt Glass added 11 points, Sandro Carissimo 10 and Brian Voelkel had 12 rebounds to help the Catamounts earn a spot against the top-seeded Tar Heels on Friday in Greensboro, N.C.

Their only previous NCAA tournament win was a stunning 60-57 upset of fourth-seeded Syracuse by the 13th-seeded Catamounts in the first round of the 2005 tournament.

"The Syracuse game was a huge win for Vermont and the community," Voelkel said. "Obviously, we're going to come into North Carolina with a lot of confidence and hopefully we can pull off another upset and give the people of Burlington something to cheer about."

The Catamounts (24-11) shot 50 percent from the field, blending an inside presence with McGlynn's touch from the perimeter.

But the America East tournament champions will be severely tested down where the skies are Carolina Blue.

"Obviously, North Carolina is one of the best teams in the country," first-year Catamounts coach John Becker said. "They've got a roster of future NBA stars. We're just going to do what we do—continue to play our brand of basketball."

McGlynn, the only player in all of Division I to lead his team in scoring (12.0) without starting a game and yet playing in every contest, provided punch to Vermont's offense.

He entered in the first half and immediately ignited a 13-0 rally that gave the Catamounts a lead that they never relinquished.

"It was my first NCAA tournament game. I thought I played pretty well," McGlynn said after hitting 5 of 9 shots from the field including 3 of 5 3-pointers and adding 5 of 6 free throws. "I got in a good flow. I give all the credit to my teammates."

Vermont's ability to hang on to a lead has been a rarity at University of Dayton Arena. Both Mississippi Valley State and Iona built big leads and then blew them in first-night losses to Western Kentucky and BYU, respectively.

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Rota Fishing Derby cancelled due to bad weather

Due to inclement weather, event organizers and its steering committee announced that the Rota San Isidro Fishing Derby is canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

The sporting event was originally scheduled for yesterday and today to run alongside Rota's San Isidro Fiesta held in Sinapalo village.

All participants that have already registered are kindly requested to provide their contact numbers in Guam to Manny Duenas of the Guam Fishing Cooperative Association at (671)-472-6323; and

for Saipan to Richard B. Se-man, CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife at 285-6003 so that they will all be informed of the reschedule date of the anticipated competition.

Proceeds raised from the event will go toward helping raise funds to build a new social hall and provide improved living accommodations for reverend monsignor Louis Antonelly. Due to the circumstances, the committee is extending the

registration date to accommodate additional interested participants. For more information, please contact (670)-532-0022, (670)-888-8047, (670) 285-4018; or email diego@pticom.com or pete_rms@yahoo.com. (*Walter Cepeda Sutherland*)

Santa Remedios fundraiser golf on March 24



The Sister Remedios Parish Pastoral Council is planning a fundraiser golf tournament on March 24 at the Marianas Country Club.

Proceeds from the event will go toward some important renovations and maintenance repairs to the church, which is located in Tanapag.

The venue has not yet been determined, however the council is requesting local golf organizations to please mark their calendars and reserve the

weekend for the cause. All local golfers are invited to and come out and help support the church.

The entrance fee to participate is \$100 per person and \$90 for early birds that register at least a week in advance (March 17). Show time is set for 6:30am with a 7am tee off. The package includes admittance to the awards banquet held immediately after the event.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded to the top three place finishers and vari-

ous other consolation prizes will also be raffles away throughout the day.

Some of the major improvements needed at the church include landscaping the surrounding area to create a more beautiful ambience, renovating the parking lot to increase the spaces available, renovating the front entrance to enable easy access for the hearst during funeral services, renovating the front walkway to integrate a portico structure to the church, and construction of a chapel in the Tanapag

cemetery that provides shelter during outdoor services.

Sister Remedios in Tanapag did not hold a fundraiser tournament last year, but have done so in the past. This event marks its sixth or seventh fundraiser tourney in recent years.

For more information or to register, contact tournament coordinator Pete Igitol at 322-7554, council president Bill Lieto at 287-9459, or council parish administrator Art Stoia at 322-7254. (*Walter Cepeda Sutherland*)

All Schools meet meeting March 21



The 2012 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Track and Field season will start later this month. Northern Marianas Athletics will be conducting qualifying events daily, starting from March 26 to May 12.

A coaches meeting is set for March 21 at 4:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Items on the agenda include the new zone competition structure

along with the addition of new events and rewards system.

The NMA in cooperation with the Division of Sports Recreation office staff is requesting the public and other sports federations not to use the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility daily from 3pm to 7pm until the track season ends.

For more information, contact meet director Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or email at eli_rang@yahoo.com (*PR*)

ANOTHER

From Page 36

goal, while Brian Lee and John Taisacan added one each to end the first half with MPU Silver way ahead, 7-0.

Paire 5, Matansa 4

Also moving up to a 2-0 record in the boys U15 division was Paire FC, which slipped past Matansa.

Paire, which clobbered Tan

Holdings FC in Week 1, 12-0, got a winning goal from Hunter Jewell to recover from a 2-3 deficit and steal the win. The goal in the second half was Jewell's lone conversation in the game.

Scott Kim nailed Paire's twin goals in the first half, while Ryu Tanzawa also had two and Sean Perez added one to put Matansa in front at the break.

In the second half, Matansa only had one goal, courtesy of Perez, while Kim, Joel Fruit, and Jewell drained one each

to give Paire a 2-0 start in the league. Matansa dropped to a 1-1 card, failing to make a follow-up on its 6-0 win over MPU Blue.

Tan Holdings 3, Shirley's FC 2

Tan Holdings recovered from its season-opening loss after downing Shirley's FC.

Ryan Christian Relucio delivered the winning goal for Tan Holdings, scoring in the 63rd minute, six minutes after Shir-

ley's Yoneil Manacop tied the game, 2-2.

Shirley's other goal came from Edward Cordero in the 22nd minute to hold the lead for more than 10 minutes before Jeremie Tanghal scored the equalizer for Tan Holdings in the 34th minute.

The game remained tied early in the second half before Joshua Galarion lit up the scoreboard in the 48th minute to Tan Holdings in the driver's seat.

8, J. Quitugua 6, Mendez 6, Peters 4 R. Quitugua 4, Deleon Guerrero 3, Lizama 2.

Hite Beer/Blue Haus 59 – Lauron 18, Palacios 17, Park 8, Tenorio 6, Diaz 4, Z. Babauta 3, R. Babauta 2, Cabrera 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-6, 30-21, 49-39, 64-59.

Second Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 62 – Berline 14, Rabauliman 14, Barrios 12, Petersberg 8, Norita 6, Lang 2.

Andhok's Grille 52 – De Guzman 19, Umali 10, Libuw 8, Capald 7, Llagas 4, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 24-27, 42-38, 62-52.

SUNRISERS

From Page 36

third, 49-39, after Jawn Joyner showed up at the start of the second half and scored six and Preston Basa also added three field goals.

Josh Sablan, who finished with 11 markers, started the fourth with a triple and the Sunrisers hung on to the lead to extend Hite's skid.

Shirley's 62, Andhok's Grille 52

In the first game, Shirley's Coffee Shop booked back-to-back wins after beating the depleted crew of

Andhok's Grille.

Shirley's now has a 3-4 record for a tie for fifth place with SCS Heavy Equipment, moving three notches up to the team standings.

Bruce Berline and Marvin Rabauliman tallied 14 points apiece for Shirley's which capitalized on the absence of three Andhok's players. Tim Wesley was suspended for one game after an altercation with Smart Cagers' Edwin Santos last week, while John Artates and Mike Olaitiman were banned from playing in the league for entering the court and punching Santos.

With their three players out,

Andhok's offensive option were limited and the team's biggest output in a quarter was only 15 points (first period). In each of the next three quarter, Andhok's failed to score more than 12 markers.

Shirley's, which led by three at the end of the opening canto, 18-15, slowed down in the second, nailing only six to fall behind at the break, 24-27. However, Shirley's behind Berline and Rabauliman regrouped in the second half en route to the 10-point win.

First Game

Sunrisers/Island Apparel 64 – Basa 12, Sablan 11, Joyner

Sunday, 21-11, 19-21, 21-15.

Arago and Balarao advanced after notching two victories last week. They won against Guintu and Diola last Friday, 21-18, 16-21, 21-13, and over Saul Gargallo and John Rivera last Saturday, 21-17, 20-22, 21-17.

Meanwhile, the semis cast of the two other divisions in the men's play is already complete.

In the men's B division, Jexter Caranto and Oh finished the elimination round with a clean 5-0 record to gain the first semis seat in Pool A. Joining them are Puy Macario and Chris Hilario,

who earned a 4-1 card. Rounding out the semifinalists were Pool B's Jerr Tan and Espana (3-0) and Lito Mendoza and Achas (3-1).

In the men's C doubles, Pool A's Son Jae Ok and Kim Uoung Seok were also undefeated (4-0) to barge into the semis, joining Eydie Uy and Jordan Pangelinan (3-1). Carlo Dotimas and J.P. Nopia (4-0) and Ortega and Park Sang Do (3-1) took the two other semis slots in Pool B.

The semifinal games will be played tomorrow, while the championship matches are scheduled this Sunday.

competition rules will be discussed at the 6pm meeting at the Civic Center pavilion. (*Roselyn B. Monroyo*)

days at Gillette, while matches in Susupe are scheduled for the whole day every Sunday.

Interested teams and their

GALVEZ

From Page 36

Ortega, 21-4, 21-8, and Golden Racquet's Roger Vales and Jojo Savellano, 21-11, 21-17, last Saturday for an impressive 8-0 record.

Espana and Galvez's semis foes this weekend have yet to be determined, as three teams are still fighting for the last Final Four slot. Mario Diola and Dick Guintu, who finished the elimination round with a 6-4 record, are vying for the fourth and final semis ticket against

UFO

From Page 36

BOYS U18 MP United 9, Tan Holdings 5

Still at the Oleai pitch, boys U18 defending champion MP United (2-0) triumphed over Tan Holdings FC.

Tan Holdings was still in the game in the first half, behind by only one, 1-2, when MP United turned on the heat in the second half for the easy win.

Clay McCullough-Stearns and Paul Yoon led the break-away in the second half, firing two goals apiece.

Unsa Tanapon had a hat-trick for Tan Holdings, but it was not enough to prevent his team from falling to a 0-2 record.

Paire 9, Matansa 0

Paire shared the lead with MP United after shutting out Matansa in the other boys U18 game.

Colin Fruit, Thomas Lee, and Jireh Yobech tallied two goals apiece to help Paire crush Matansa. Dale Ballesteros, Hae Sung Lee, and Juanito Tiamzon also scored for Paire.

GIRLS U15 Shirley's FC 6, Paire 1

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, Shirley's FC beat Paire.

Kyla Ito had a hat-trick in Shirley's season-opening win, while Alexa Vergara made two goals, Diana Maniacop chipped in one.

Mickaela Duenas scored the lone goal for Paire, which came off a 1-1 stalemate against MP United in Week 1.

Meanwhile, the second game at the Hopwood pitch, featuring MP United and Tan Holdings FC ended in a scoreless draw.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
NBA STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
Philadelphia	25 18 .581 —
Boston	23 19 .548 1 1/2
New York	19 24 .442 6
New Jersey	15 29 .341 10 1/2
Toronto	14 29 .326 11
Southeast Division	
Miami	31 11 .738 —
Orlando	28 16 .636 4
Atlanta	24 19 .558 7 1/2
Washington	9 32 .220 21 1/2
Charlotte	6 35 .146 24 1/2
Central Division	
Chicago	36 9 .800 —
Indiana	25 16 .610 9
Milwaukee	19 24 .442 16
Cleveland	16 25 .390 18
Detroit	16 27 .372 19
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
San Antonio	28 13 .683 —
Memphis	24 17 .585 4
Dallas	24 20 .545 5 1/2
Houston	24 20 .545 5 1/2
New Orleans	10 33 .233 19
Northwest Division	
Oklahoma City	32 10 .762 —
Denver	24 19 .558 8 1/2
Minnesota	22 21 .512 10 1/2
Utah	20 22 .476 12
Portland	20 23 .465 12 1/2
Pacific Division	
L.A. Lakers	27 16 .628 —
L.A. Clippers	24 17 .585 2
Phoenix	20 22 .476 6 1/2
Golden State	18 22 .450 7 1/2
Sacramento	14 29 .326 13
Yesterday's Games	
Indiana 111, Philadelphia 94	
New Jersey 98, Toronto 84	
New York 121, Portland 79	
Houston 107, Charlotte 87	
L.A. Lakers 107, New Orleans 101, OT	
Milwaukee 115, Cleveland 105	
San Antonio 122, Orlando 111	
Chicago 106, Miami 102	
Detroit 124, Sacramento 112	
Boston 105, Golden State 103	
L.A. Clippers 96, Atlanta 82	
Phoenix 120, Utah 111	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	
LOCAL SCORES	
DLX STANDINGS	
Sunrisers	7 0
Blue Haus	4 1
QQ Rent A Car	3 3
Mobil	3 1
SCS	3 4
Shirley's Coffee Shop	3 4
Andhok's Grille	2 4
Smart Cagers	2 4
Hite Beer	2 5
Crystal Pure/Mekeni Abe	1 4

2011-2012 MISO Boys Basketball League Playoffs

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Saipan Southern High School's Jack Aranda takes a shot over Marianas High School's Erick Dela Rosa during their semis game in the 2011-2012 MISO Boys Basketball League last weeked at the MHS Gymnasium.



Marianas High School's Ezra Caro blocks a shot by Saipan Southern High School's Jimmy Tudela.



Saipan Southern High School's Christian Mizer goes to work down low.



Marianas High School's Ralph Francisco maneuvers his way to the basket in the finals.



Tinian High School's Darrius Pettis surveys the double team during their title game against Marianas High School.



Tinian High School's Renz Benghit slashes to the basket against two Marianas High School defenders.



Tinian High School's Esteban Borja posts up on Marianas High School's Albert Salas.



Tinian High School's Marc Babauta cashes in on a fastbreak play.



Marianas High School's Daryl Suarez tries to get off a shot around Tinian High School's Develle Maui.



Marianas High School's Erick Dela Rosa sneaks past two Tinian High School defenders.



Activity Schedule for March 16, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices

2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Tournament

Games start at 5:00 PM



NMBA
NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION



There are no
scheduled games.



Gillette
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM



There are no
scheduled games.



SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL



Another blowout win for MPU Silver



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion MP United Silver had another lopsided win, crushing sister team MP United Blue, 13-0, during the third and last game in Week 2 of the boys U15 division play in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Five MPU Silver players canned two goals apiece in the dominating victory, while three others also made it to the scoreboard for the defending champion's 2-0 record. MPU Silver opened the league with a rousing 15-0 win over Shirley's Football Club.

Dakota Hall drilled back-to-back goals early in the first half and then a few minutes later, it was John Joyner's turn to score two straight goals. Ryota Ito made it a 5-0 count with his first and lone

See ANOTHER on Page 34

MP United Silver's Jordan Butcher-Wade, right, and MP United Blue's Bum Ki Lee in action near the net during the first half of the game in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Sunrisers widen lead in DLX/Miller Lite caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sunrisers stretched their lead in the team standings of the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League after slipping past Hite Beer/Blue Haus, 64-59, last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The win was the Sunrisers/Island Apparel's seventh in eight matches, giving the team three-game lead over defending champion Blue Haus (4-1). Incidentally, Blue Haus led its rained-out game against the Sunrisers last month, 69-53, with a full quarter left. Not counting their pending match over Blue Haus, the Sunrisers have one game left (versus QQ Rent A Car on Wednesday) in the round-robin elimination and are already assured of a



The Sunrisers/Island Apparel's John Joyner, seen here stretching for a layup against SCS' Leo Galarse last weekend, delivered eight points in the second half of their match against Hite Beer in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

playoff spot.

Hite Beer dropped to a 2-5 record, absorbing its third straight loss, and is in danger of not making it to the next round.

The Sunrisers led from start to finish and halted Hite Beer's rally late in the fourth quarter. The Sunrisers limited Hite to only two field goals in the opening quarter for an early double-digit lead, 18-6. The league frontrunners had a balance offense in the first period, drawing points from seven different plays, while only Alex Lauron and Ray Babauta scored for Hite Beer with four and two markers, respectively.

Hite picked up its scoring in the second period behind the seven points of Lauron, however it outgunned Sunrisers by only three, 15-12, leaving the latter with a 30-21 halftime lead.

The Sunrisers regained their twin-digit margin in the

See SUNRISERS on Page 34

UFO caging eyes April 15 opening



Organizers of the 2012 UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League are aiming to open shop on April 15.

Games will be held both at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai and at the Civic Center Basketball Court

in Susupe. Games at Gillette will be played every Tuesday and Thursday, while Sunday's matches are set in Susupe.

This year's UFO caging will have a new division—the U15 category. The rest of the competition is for the 40-and-above age group, 20 to 39, and 16 to 20.

Ali'i Konflikt won last sea-

son's 20 to 39 age group for its back-to-back championship. The Norman Del Rosario-coached squad stunned the then undefeated Proa, which was bannered by members of the CNMI National Team. Ali'i Konflikt won the winner-take-all finals, 94-79.

In the 40-and-above division (masters), MDX/Armatech

prevailed over 2010 champion Cabalen/Wings Travel, 84-79, while the Jets ruled the 16 to 20 division, downing Filcag Rollers in the finals, 86-8.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said they are hoping to get at least eight teams for the 20 to 39 age group and six each in the three other divisions.

Malasarte added that two games will be played on week-

See UFO on Page 34

Galvez, Espana still perfect, make semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The youthful tandem of Andreu Galvez and Rodwealth Espana remained unscathed in the ongoing 2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition, sweeping their first eight games in the elimination round.

Fifteen-year-old Espana and

the 21-year-old Galvez collected three more wins in last weekend's elimination games at the TSL Sports Complex to secure the first semis seat in the competitive men's doubles A division. The Taga Badminton Club members first downed Saipan Badminton Club's Gary Bandoja and Oh Im Bog last Friday and then defeated SBC's Efen Caddac and Joel

See GALVEZ on Page 34



Rodwealth Espana leans back to return a shot during his and Andreu Galvez's men's doubles A game against Sam Jones and Glen Bultjens in the Tan Holdings tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO